

Series: Salt & Light: God's Vision for the Church

Sermon: The Identity of the Church

Scripture: Matthew 5:13-16 (ESV)

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Matthew 5:13-16 (ESV)

¹³ *"You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything except to be thrown out and trampled under people's feet.*

¹⁴ *"You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden.*

¹⁵ *Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house.*

¹⁶ *In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.*

The Beatitudes: the inner attitudes of the heart of a follower of Christ.

Salt and Light: the outward manifestation of the inner attitudes.

Salt:

Greek: *halas*

- Salt for seasoning food.
- Salt for seasoning sacrifices.

Being the salt of the earth is lived out primarily in relationships.

1. We are to be seasoned with salt in our conduct and speech. (Col. 4:5-6)
2. We are to be seasoned with salt in our pursuit of peace. (Mark 9:50)

Light:

Greek: *phos*

- To shine or make manifest

The Bible tells us five important things about light:

1. God is light. (1 John 1:5)
2. Jesus is the light of the world. (John 8:12)
3. Christ indwells all believers. (Galatians 2:20)
4. His Church is the light of the world. (Matthew 5:13)
5. His Word is light. (Psalm 119:105)

The Church:

A people devoted to His Word, empowered by His Spirit, manifesting His light to a world lost in darkness.

“Worldly people will take note of the quiet trust in God manifested by believers in times of trial and distress.” William Hendriksen

“But it is mainly the deeds of a love so noble that lead many to put a brand upon us. ‘See,’ they say, ‘how they love one another,’ for they themselves [non-Christians] are animated by mutual hatred; ‘see they are ready even to die for one another,’ for they themselves will rather put to death.” - Tertullian

Where we're headed in this series:

For the next four weeks we're going to be walking through the book of Titus.

In it, we'll address four questions:

1. How is the church to be led?
2. What is the church to teach?
3. What is the church to be centered on?
4. What is the church to be devoted to?