

# We Are Salt!

John Cole / General

The Journey, Becoming a Disciple / Salt; Purity; Doctrine / Matthew 5:13–16

Jesus informs His followers here that they are the salt of the earth right after he had taught them the "Beattitudes." The right attitudes He taught will equip us to be preserving and savory salt in this Earth for His glory. May we be used to help preserve and flavor things like Bible doctrine, God-ordained institutions, and godly purity.

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## › INTRO

### **Wiersbe's Expository Outlines on the New Testament Chapter 5**

There are two pictures of the Christian in closing: salt and the light. Salt speaks of inward character that influences a decaying world; light speaks of the outward testimony of good works that points to God. Our task is to keep our lives pure that we might "salt" this earth and hold back corruption so that the Gospel can get out. Our good works must accompany our dedicated lives as we let our lights shine.

Today we will focus on the salt application.

## Salt

Salt has been used as a preservative since ancient times to protect food against bacteria, mold, and spoiling. Here's a look at why it works.

### **Short Answer**

Basically, salt works by drying food. Salt absorbs water from foods, making the environment too dry to support harmful mold or bacteria.

### **Long Answer**

Salt draws water out of cells via the process of osmosis. Essentially, water moves across a cell membrane to try to equalize the salinity or concentration of salt on both sides of the

membrane.

If you add enough salt, too much water will be removed from a cell for it to stay alive or reproduce.

Organisms that decay food and cause disease are killed by a high concentration of salt. A concentration of 20% salt will kill bacteria.

## Inherent Evil Within Humanity

We see historically from Scripture and otherwise that mankind possesses within himself an inherent evil nature that corrupts.

Before the Flood:

**Genesis 6:11–12 KJV 1900**

<sup>11</sup>The earth also was corrupt before God, and the earth was filled with violence. <sup>12</sup>And God looked upon the earth, and, behold, it was corrupt; for all flesh had corrupted his way upon the earth.

After the Flood:

**Genesis 8:21 KJV 1900**

<sup>21</sup>And the LORD smelled a sweet savour; and the LORD said in his heart, I will not again curse the ground any more for man's sake; for the imagination of man's heart *is* evil from his youth; neither will I again smite any more every thing living, as I have done.

In the Days of King David:

**Psalms 14:2–3 KJV 1900**

<sup>2</sup>The LORD looked down from heaven upon the children of men, To see if there were any that did understand, *and* seek God. <sup>3</sup>They are all gone aside, they are *all* together become filthy: *There is* none that doeth good, no, not one.

The old nature of believers:

**Ephesians 2:1-3 KJV 1900**

<sup>1</sup> And you *hath he quickened*, who were dead in trespasses and sins;

<sup>2</sup> Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience:

<sup>3</sup> Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others.

Inability to please God:

**Romans 8:8 KJV 1900**

So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God.

## “Ye are the salt of the earth”

To:

- Preserve from corruption
- Season its unpleasantness
- Freshen and sweeten it

To be preserving, savory salt, we need to be:

- Wise
- Full of power
- Favorable
- The Beattitudes

## **We gather to strengthen. We scatter to salt.**

The call to follow Jesus is a call to be preserving, savory salt within this Earth...wherever we go.

Too many Christians are satisfied with letting “full-time” Christians, like pastors, being the salt.

That is flawed thinking.

God’s strategy is to gather and spread salt with His disciples all over.

It is our individual responsibility to be salt.

- Different
- Purifying
- Setting the example

Athletes don’t win by asking how few workouts they can get by with.

Entrepreneurs don’t last by asking how little profit and work they can get by with.

Similarly, followers of Jesus don’t preserve and flavor where they go by asking how low of an example they can set!

**We are salt!**

Jesus says if we are not savory, we have no use...can just be thrown out and trampled on.

› LET'S LOOK AT SOME THINGS WE NEED TO PRESERVE AND SEASON

## #1 Doctrine

### Blurred Puffs of Gray

We have gotten accustomed to the blurred puffs of gray fog that pass for doctrine in churches and expect nothing better. From some previously unimpeachable sources are now coming vague statements consisting of a milky admixture of Scripture, science, and human sentiment that is true to none of its ingredients because each one works to cancel the others out.

Little by little Christians these days are being brainwashed. One evidence is that increasing numbers of them are becoming ashamed to be found unequivocally on the side of truth. They say they believe, but their beliefs have been so diluted as to be impossible of clear definition. Moral power has always accompanied definite beliefs. Great saints have always been dogmatic. We need a return to a gentle dogmatism that smiles while it stands stubborn and firm on the Word of God that lives and abides forever.

A. W. Tozer

**Note—It is important that followers of Jesus learn Bible doctrine...not just a few “pet doctrines.”**

A man's nose is a prominent feature in his face, but it is possible to make it so large that eyes and mouth and everything else are thrown into insignificance, and the drawing becomes a caricature and not a portrait. So certain important doctrines of the gospel can be so proclaimed in excess as to throw the rest of the truth into the shade, and the preaching is no longer the gospel in its natural beauty, but a caricature of the truth; of which caricature, however, let me say, some people seem to be mightily fond.—*Spurgeon*

**If we don't preserve bible doctrine, who will?**

Religion, as embodied in the character and conduct of its disciples, cannot survive without doctrinal purity. In the absence of this element, religious feeling inevitably decays; while even religious necessity becomes a thing of naught. —A Commentary

## Knowing and believing Bible doctrine creates zeal:

The Heretic

I was walking in San Francisco along the Golden Gate Bridge when I saw a man about to jump off. I tried to dissuade him from committing suicide and told him simply that God loved him. A tear came to his eye. I then asked him, "Are you a Christian, a Jew, a Hindu, or what?"

He said, "I'm a Christian."

I said, "Me, too, small world. . .Protestant or Catholic?"

He said, "Protestant."

I said, "Me, too, what denomination?"

He said, "Baptist."

I said, "Me, too, Northern Baptist or Southern Baptist?"

He said, "Northern Baptist."

I said, "Well, ME TOO, Northern Conservative Baptist or Northern Liberal Baptist?"

He said, "Northern Conservative Baptist."

I said, "Well, that's amazing! Northern Conservative Fundamentalist Baptist or Northern Conservative Reformed Baptist?"

He said, "Northern Conservative Fundamentalist Baptist."

I said, "Remarkable! Northern Conservative Fundamentalist Baptist Great Lakes Region or Northern Conservative Fundamentalist Baptist Eastern Region?"

He said, "Northern Conservative Fundamentalist Baptist Great Lakes Region."

I said, "A miracle! Northern Conservative Fundamentalist Baptist Great Lakes Region Council of 1879, or Northern Conservative Fundamentalist Baptist Great Lakes Region Council of 1912?"

He said, "Northern Conservative Fundamentalist Baptist Great Lakes Region Council of

| 1912.”

| I said, “DIE HERETIC!” and pushed him over the rail.

| The Shaw Pocket Bible Handbook, Walter A. Elwell, Editor, (Harold Shaw Publ., Wheaton , IL; 1984), p. 349

## #2 Marriage, Government, & Church

Three God-ordained institutions.

**1 Timothy 2:1-4 KJV 1900**

<sup>1</sup> I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, *and* giving of thanks, be made for all men;

<sup>2</sup> For kings, and *for* all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty.

<sup>3</sup> For this *is* good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour;

<sup>4</sup> Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth.

## #3 Purity

**1 Timothy 4:12 KJV 1900**

Let no man despise thy youth; but be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity.

### › Conclusion

Young Pastor Bate

"You're just out of date," said young pastor Bate  
To one of our faithful old preachers  
Who had carried for years in travail and tears  
The gospel to poor sinful creatures.

"You still preach on Hades, and shock cultured ladies  
"With your barbarous doctrine of blood!  
"You're so far behind you will never catch up—  
"You're a flat tire stuck in the mud!"

For some little while, a bit of a smile  
Enlightened the old preacher's face.  
Being made the butt of ridicule's cut  
Did not ruffle his sweetness and grace.

Then he returned to young Bate, so suave and sedate.  
"Catch up, did my ears hear you say'  
"Why, I couldn't succeed if I doubled my speed,  
"My friend, *I'm not going your way!*"

Source unknown

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