

# **The Gospel According to Matthew** pt 17

(Salt and Light)

**(2Co 11:3) But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtilty (*trickery* or *sophistry*: - (cunning) craftiness), so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ.**

**(Rom 12:6-8) Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, whether prophecy, let us prophesy according to the proportion of faith; Or ministry, let us wait on our ministering: or he that teacheth, on teaching; Or he that exhorteth, on exhortation: he that giveth, let him do it with simplicity.**

**(2Co 1:12) For our rejoicing is this, the testimony of our conscience, that in simplicity and godly sincerity, not with fleshly wisdom, but by the grace of God, we have had our conversation in the world, and more abundantly to you-ward.**

Let me first bring to our remembrance, we have been looking into the Lord's inspired Word, recorded for us by Matthew, the sermon our Lord preached on a mountain to His disciples and possibly others, and we began by considering the closing words to this sermon; (Mat 7:28-29) **And it came to pass, when Jesus had ended these sayings, the people were astonished at his doctrine: For he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes.**

Next we went into what is called the beatitudes, 8 characteristic's of those who are Blessed of God, if I could say one more thing about that, these characteristic's will be manifested in all who have experienced God's saving grace, it may not be as you wish it to be, it may be that our flesh will war with our spirit, but in your heart, these characteristic's which were not there before, will be our desire, of course Christ is our fulfillment of these things, and our only hope is in His perfect works, in His Righteousness, but our new heart, desires to be Holy for our God is Holy!

With that in mind let us consider the next verses 13-16 of Matt.5.

I begin again with how the Scribes, the religious, the self-righteous world would like you to think, “If You” If you do or don’t do, you may be saved or you may lose your salvation, everything the religions of this world base their dependency on, base their salvation on is the works of man! “If You” . some are so close to the truth, that if it were possible, even the elect may fall prey to their deceitfulness and be led away, (Mar 13:22) **For false Christs and false prophets shall rise, and shall shew signs and wonders, to seduce, if it were possible, even the elect.** but that’s not possible!

We know some things now that did not know before, don’t we? We know that God manifested Himself in the flesh, we see that clearly in the face of His Son, Christ Jesus.

(Heb 1:1-3) **God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds; Who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power,**

We know as the Son of God, everything He intended, purposed, to be accomplished by Him humbling Himself and coming to this world as a man, was accomplished, “**It is finished**” perfectly, in all righteousness, everything He did pleased the Father. His walk with man, fulfilled all the types and figures of the Old testament claims of Him! fulfilled the whole law!

We know that nothing can separate those loved of God from Him, for what He did on this earth fulfilled all that is required to redeem this people loved of Him unto Himself.

(1Co 1:30) **But of him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption:**

We know Christ and His crucifixion, is the only wise way to redemption!

We know the Righteousness of Christ is the only righteousness acceptable to God the Father!

We know that it is the spotless blood of Christ that set's us apart, washes us clean, making us Holy in Him!

We know God the Father accepted the sacrifice of His Son raising Him from death, proving Perfected redemption for His people!

I know who my Savior is, He is Christ Jesus, the Son of the Living God!

I know this Verse 13 **“Ye are the salt of the earth: but if the salt have lost his savour, wherewith shall it be salted? it is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men”**- does not mean the saints, those who were chosen in Christ before the foundation of the worlds, the elect of God can lose their Salvation;

**“All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out. For I came down from heaven, not to do mine own will, but the will of him that sent me. And this is the Father's will which hath sent me, that of all which he hath given me I should lose nothing, but should raise it up again at the last day. And this is the will of him that sent me, that every one which seeth the Son, and believeth on him, may have everlasting life: and I will raise him up at the last day”** (Joh 6:37-40).

I Know this, once I was blind, but now I see. I know I would never have sought after Him had He not sought after me first. I know this, there is no righteousness in me, that is in my flesh, and I deserve His eternal wrath! Yet He has suffered His wrath in my stead! He has put away my sin for evermore. This one, this Man **“Who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high”**; (Heb 1:3). **“For by one offering he hath perfected for ever them that are sanctified”** (Heb 10:14).

This is a fact defined through out the word of God, you cannot deny it!  
If any for whom the Son of God shed His blood for could be lost, this whole book would be a contradiction, the Blood of God, shed on that cross would have been insufficient, His death meaningless!

**(Rom 8:31-34) What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us? He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things? Who shall lay any thing to the charge of God's elect? It is God that justifieth. Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us.**

If anything could separate one for whom He died, There would be no hope for a sinner!

So what is our Lord saying here in verse 13 of Matt. 5?

Let's begin with what salt is; Salt is an combination of two elements "Chlorine" and "Sodium" both of which in certain amounts are poisonous to man! yet put together, the two in unison can preserve and give flavor, to that which will expire and decay, and has no flavor! When these two elements are brought together in a union with each other we can see preservation and flavoring!

It say's "Ye are the salt of the earth", you whom God has revealed His Grace too, are a new creature, a new man, I don't care how good you are as this new creature, **"Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new"** (2Co 5:17).

God say's His people are made a new man! A union is made between grace and flesh, and as such in line with what He preached in the beatitudes, we walk a new walk, one of Him who has begun a work in us, a work that glorifies Him, **"For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them"** (Eph 2:10).

Brother Don Fortner wrote; *“the Lord shows us in these verses that the grace of God changes people from the inside out, making them both righteous before God and useful to one another”*.

Brother C. H. Spurgeon wrote, *“In the believer’s character there is a preserving force to keep the rest of society from utter corruption...There is a secret something, which is the secret of the believer’s power. That something is savor. It is not easy to define it, but yet it is absolutely essential to usefulness.”*

Imagine the horror of life without the savor of God’s grace in this world, imagine the utter horror of God convicting us of our sin without a grain of salt, a savor of God’s grace in our lives, so in a preserving sense, we who are given the great commission to go unto the world and preach the Gospel are salting the world, (salting with the savor of Christ and His love for His people).

But what about the next part of verse 13; **“but if the salt have lost his savour, wherewith shall it be salted? it is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men”**.

Notice the word “If”, if the salt, the savor, the good taste of Grace could lose it’s savor, it is thenceforth good for nothing, to be cast out and trodden under foot of men!

Do you not thank God for Grace that cannot fail; if grace could fail to save a man, there would be no hope for anyone. You can salt meat. But no one can salt salt. If grace fails, everything fails! But Thank God for Grace that cannot fail, for salt that cannot lose its savor ; **“And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee”** (2Co 12:9).

And this sufficient Grace is our Light, the Light that shines in us; **“Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid. Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven”** (Matt.5:14-16).

I know this, He is my Light, where there was nothing but darkness in my cold dead heart, He caused the light to shine, and it is my heart's desire to share this Light with all of whom God will allow.

**(2Co 4:5-6) For we preach not ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord; and ourselves your servants for Jesus' sake. For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.**

*“It is the property of light to be utterly distinct from darkness. The least spark in a dark room can be seen at once. Of all things created, light is the most useful: it fertilizes; it guides; it cheers. It was the first thing called into being. (Gen 1:3). Without it, the world would be a gloomy blank.”  
(J.C. Ryle)*

These words must not be applied only to gospel preachers. You who trust Christ are the light of the world. The church of Christ is the light of the world. As the moon reflects the light of the sun, so those who trust him reflect the light of Christ, the Sun of Righteousness.

We are to dispel the darkness of ignorance, sin, and sorrow by proclaiming the glorious gospel light of Christ (Mat 5:14). God intends for us to be open and clear in our testimony regarding His grace and His Son (Mat 5:15). Yet, the light of the gospel shines forth, not in our words, but in our works (Mat 5:16). The works by which the light shines forth from God's elect are not religious works of self-righteousness, or displays of religious devotion (Mat 6:2-3; Mat 6:5-6; Mat 6:16-18), but works of faith and love in the daily affairs of life. True Christianity is not a show of religion, but a life of devotion to Christ.

*“True shining is silent, but yet it is so useful, that men...are forced to bless God for the good which they receive...when they mark the good works of his saints” (C. H. Spurgeon).*

It ought to be our constant prayer and desire before God that He would give us grace to be useful to others, to improve the lives of those whose paths we cross, to make them happier and better for having come into contact with us.

The emblems our Lord uses here of salt and light are instructive. Christ is the salt of the covenant (Lev 2:13; Num 18:19; Mar 9:49).

Our Savior, as we have already observed, is the light of the world. It is because Christ is in His redeemed; “**Christ in you, the hope of glory**” (Col 1:27), and only because Christ is in us that believers are the salt of the earth and the light of the world.

Our purpose here is to bring the Gospel to wherever the Lord is pleased to use us!

**(Joh 17:15-21) I pray not that thou shouldest take them out of the world, but that thou shouldest keep them from the evil. They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth. As thou hast sent me into the world, even so have I also sent them into the world. And for their sakes I sanctify myself, that they also might be sanctified through the truth. Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word; That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me.**

If it were not for some who still must come to Grace, the whole world would be in a state of utter darkness, yet Paul, by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit gives us a word of encouragement (Php 2:15) **That ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world.**