

# The Inevitable Effects of Kingdom Living

Matthew 5:13-16

## A bridge from the Beatitudes:

We are to be profoundly aware of our spiritual need, mournful for our sin, meek and humble in our disposition, deeply desirous for righteousness, as merciful as we've been shown mercy, undivided and true in our hearts toward God, and eager to be instruments of peace, but ...

We are never to be these things in \_\_\_\_\_ from a world that's at odds with God!

That's why this life is a \_\_\_\_\_ one, but it is not a \_\_\_\_\_ free one.

*John 15:18-20a*

Persecution is not the opposite of blessedness. Persecution is a necessary \_\_\_\_\_ that we are redeemed by and \_\_\_\_\_ to the King!

*1 Tim 3:12*

And while we don't know exactly *what* it entails, we do know that the reward is \_\_\_\_\_ for faithfulness.

*Matt 5:11-12*

This is what life will look like when people who live in God's Kingdom under Christ's rule come into contact and conflict with the \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ kingdom of this world.

We should \_\_\_\_\_ persecution and be \_\_\_\_\_ for it, unless we are ...

\_\_\_\_\_ and/or \_\_\_\_\_ about our faith in Jesus

\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ from witness to the world

But living that way defies our God-given \_\_\_\_\_ and God-given \_\_\_\_\_ (and denies us eternal reward):

<sup>13</sup> "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.

<sup>14</sup> "You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. <sup>15</sup> 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. <sup>16</sup> 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.

## "Salt" and Light" – The Who and What of God's People

1. God's people and "the world" are \_\_\_\_\_ communities. When that distinction is \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_ altogether, God's purposes thru us and for us are also lost.

2. This world is in \_\_\_\_\_ shape, and it is getting \_\_\_\_\_. Its only hope is the grace of God declared and displayed thru the \_\_\_\_\_ (via its many members).

As "salt", the Church is called to prevent the \_\_\_\_\_ of a \_\_\_\_\_ culture.

As "salt", the Church is called to \_\_\_\_\_ a \_\_\_\_\_ culture.

As "salt", the Church is called to foment a " \_\_\_\_\_ " for God in a culture with an appetite for its own \_\_\_\_\_.

But there is a \_\_\_\_\_:

<sup>50</sup> *Salt is good, but if the salt has lost its saltiness, how will you make it salty again? Have salt in yourselves, and be at peace with one another."* (Mark 9:50)

*That verse begs a huge question:*

And remember, having "salt" in and to this world comes \_\_\_\_\_.

3. This world is a bad place because it is an increasingly \_\_\_\_\_ place. And there is only one remedy for darkness: \_\_\_\_\_.

*Eph 4:18, Eph 5:8*

As "light", the Church is called to make Christ (and our Christianity) \_\_\_\_\_.

So, there again is a \_\_\_\_\_:

*"A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket ..."*

*That verse begs another huge question:*

As "light", the Church is called to do \_\_\_\_\_ things, not just generically " \_\_\_\_\_ " things. (One the world *opposes*; the other it *applauds*).

As "light", the church is called to \_\_\_\_\_ of Christ, leading others to Him. (Then they'll praise the Light, not the lamp.)

Likewise, shedding "light" on a dark world will come at a cost. (But will also ensure a \_\_\_\_\_!)

## Therefore ...

We must not \_\_\_\_\_ from, nor may we \_\_\_\_\_ to the sickness and darkness of this world.

Since salt and light are \_\_\_\_\_ who we are and what we do, we must \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ both.

My response to God's Word today:

*Dr. Paul Thompson  
Calvary Baptist Church  
May 5, 2024*