

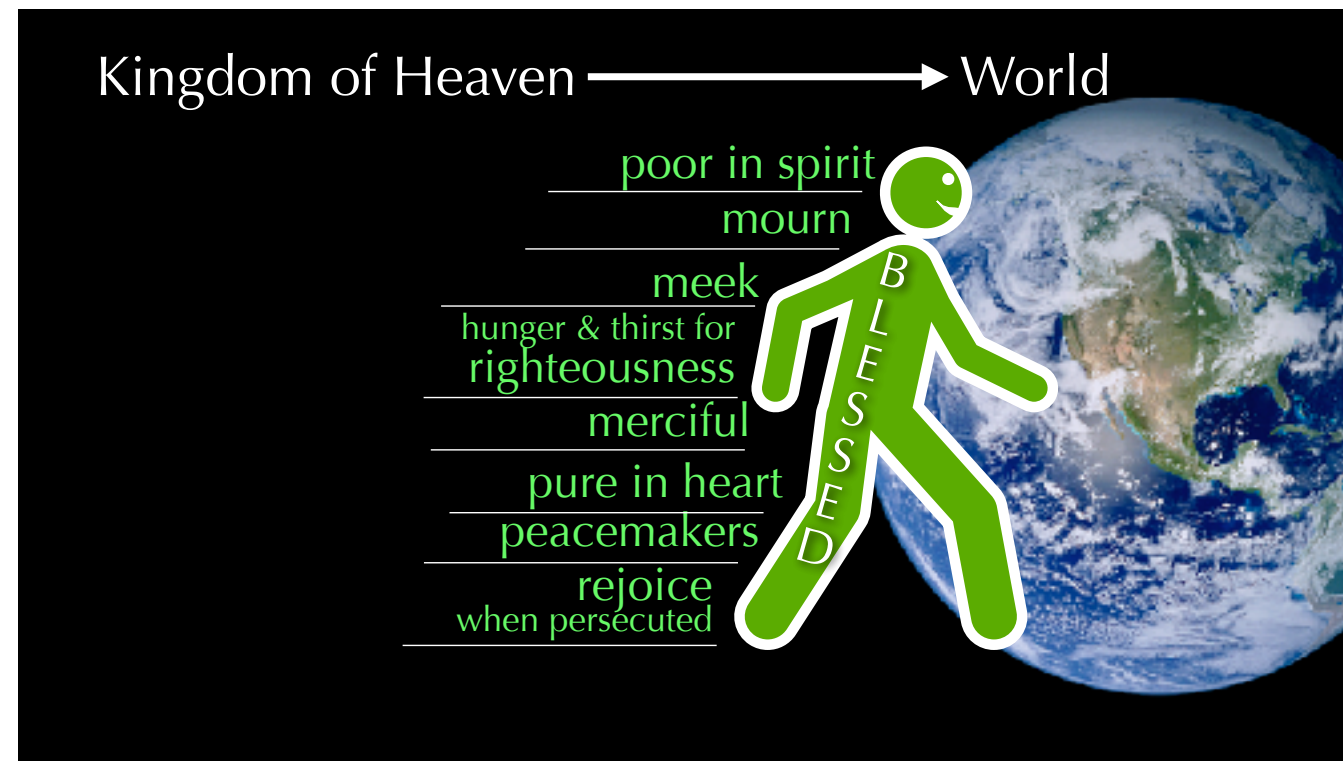


- Matthew 5:13-16

Kingdom of Heaven



- Connection with Beatitudes
 - Having the right character as a citizen in the kingdom is vital.
 - But we don't live in a vacuum, and cannot stay in some type of "splendid isolation"



- Our God has a purpose for us... to go out into the world and help others to come back to reconciliation with Him.
- He has a clear function and purpose for us: we are to influence the world for GOOD
 - We cannot help it
 - So long as we show His Character in the world.



- John 17:14-19 (ESV) 14 I have given them your word, and the world has hated them because **they are not of the world**, just as I am not of the world. 15 **I do not ask that you take them out of the world**, *but that you keep them from the evil one.*



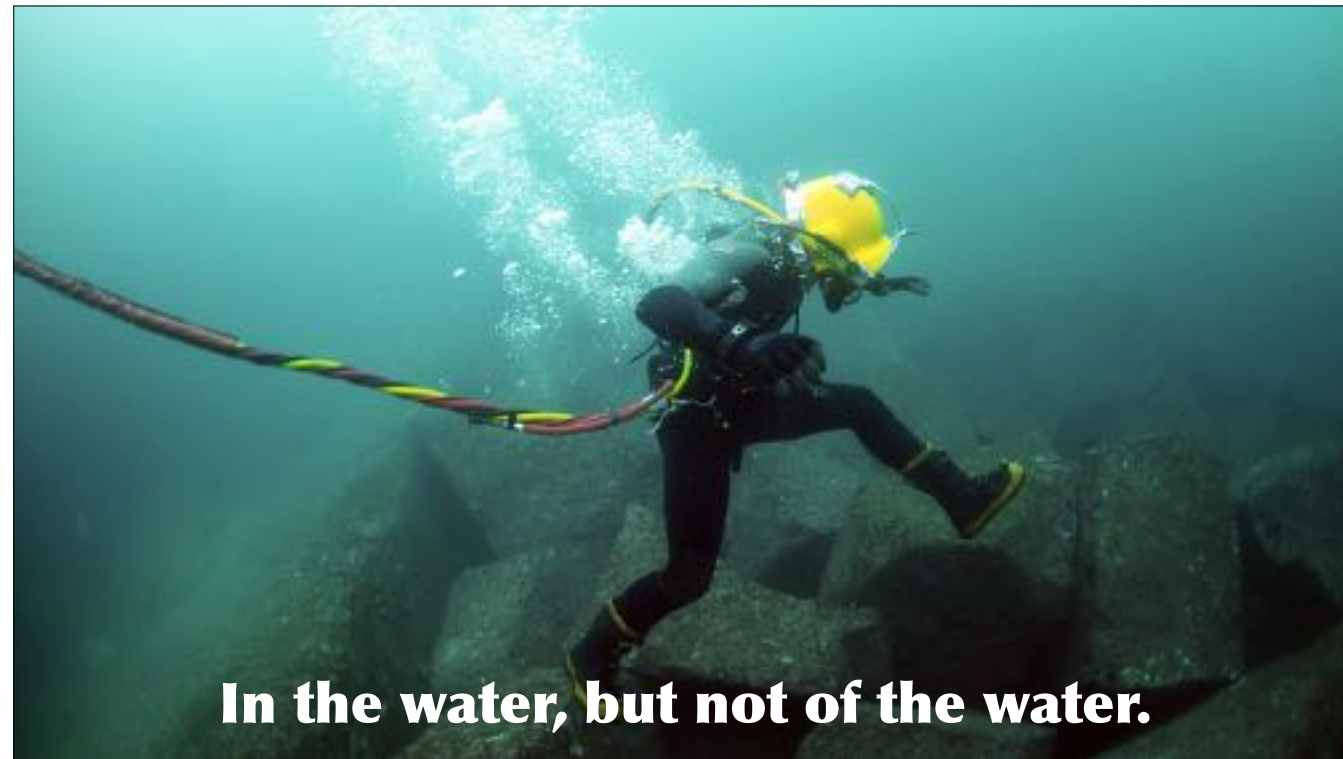
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- We are not of the world (not physical earth) but way of thinking that is opposed to God, man, righteousness.



- 16 **They are not of the world**, just as I am not of the world. 17 Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth. 18 As you sent me into the world, so **I have sent them into the world**. 19 And for their sake I consecrate myself, that they also may be sanctified in truth.



- We live in this same environment / society.
- We are never told to attempt to separate ourselves from being a part of this society.
 - Not hermits...
- Careful line to walk... in world, but not of the world.

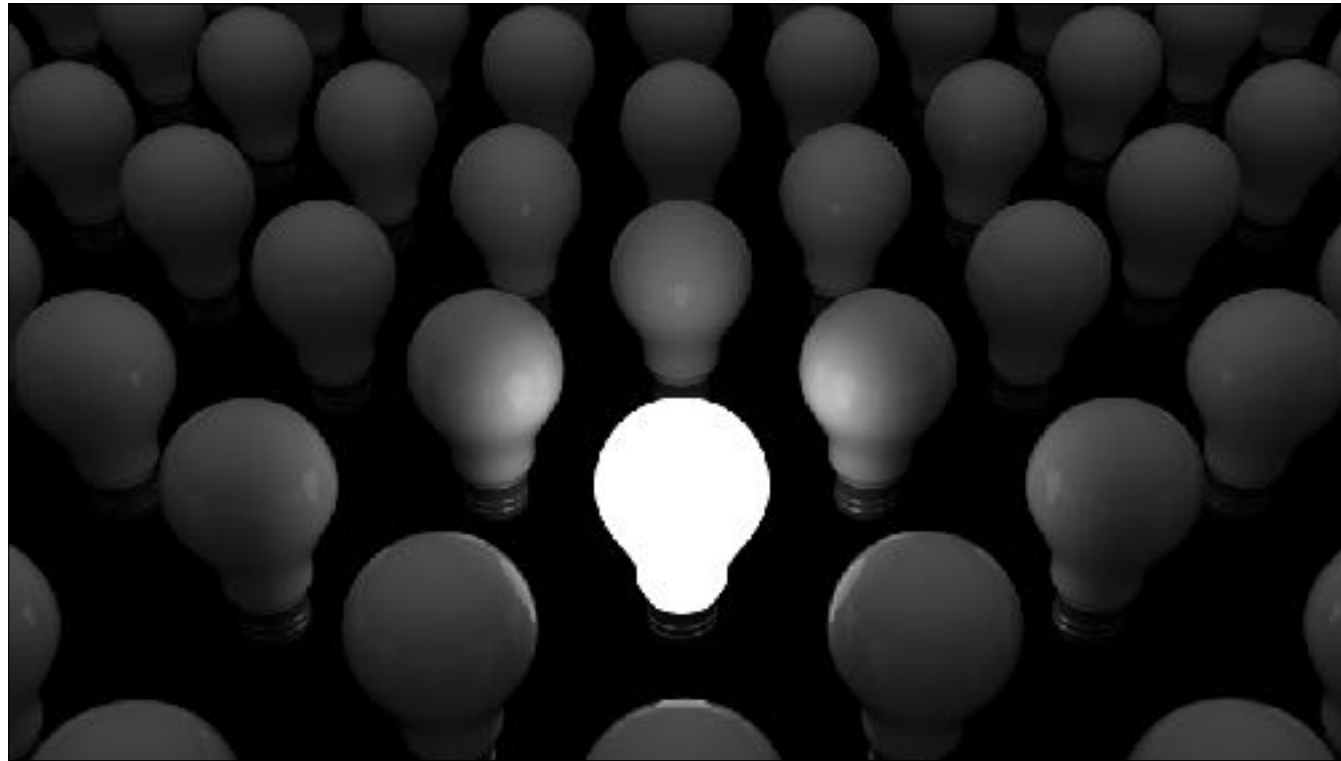


In the water, but not of the water.

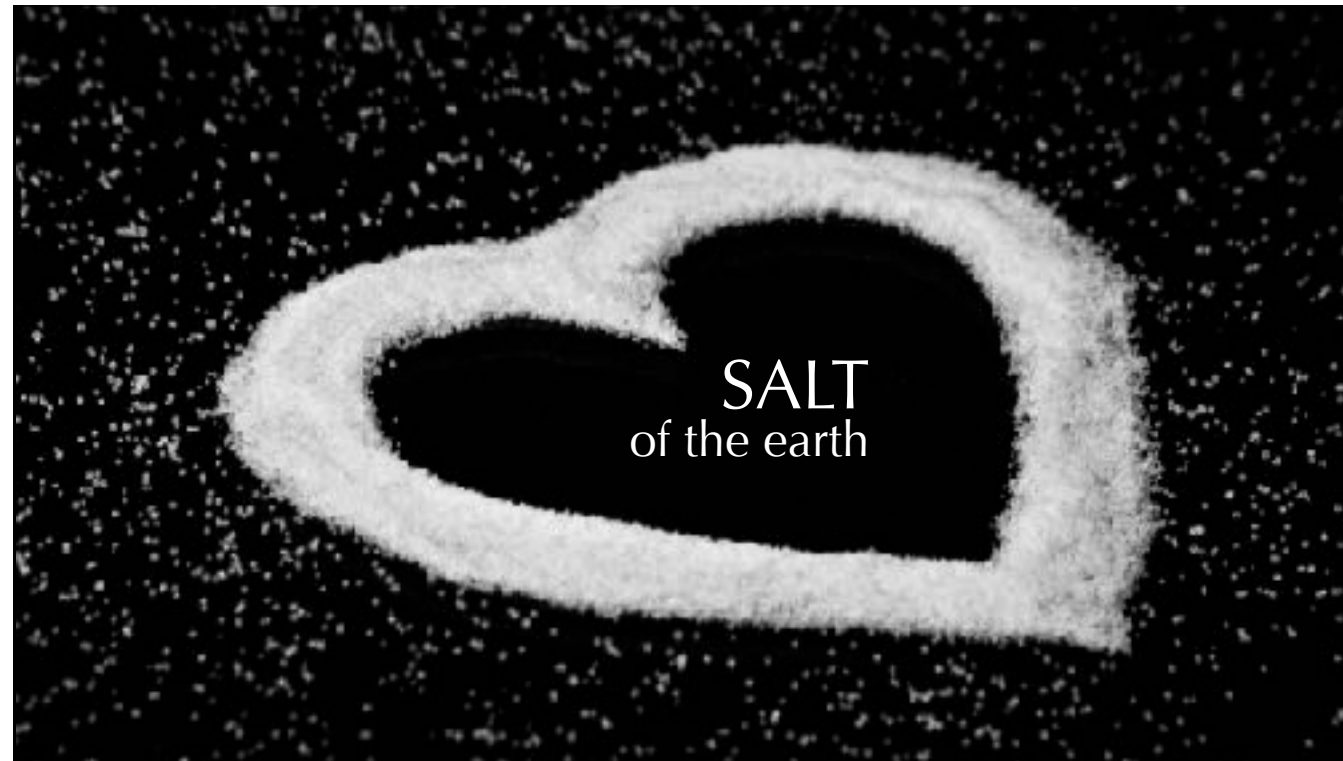
- Is it like being “in the water”, but not “of the water”?



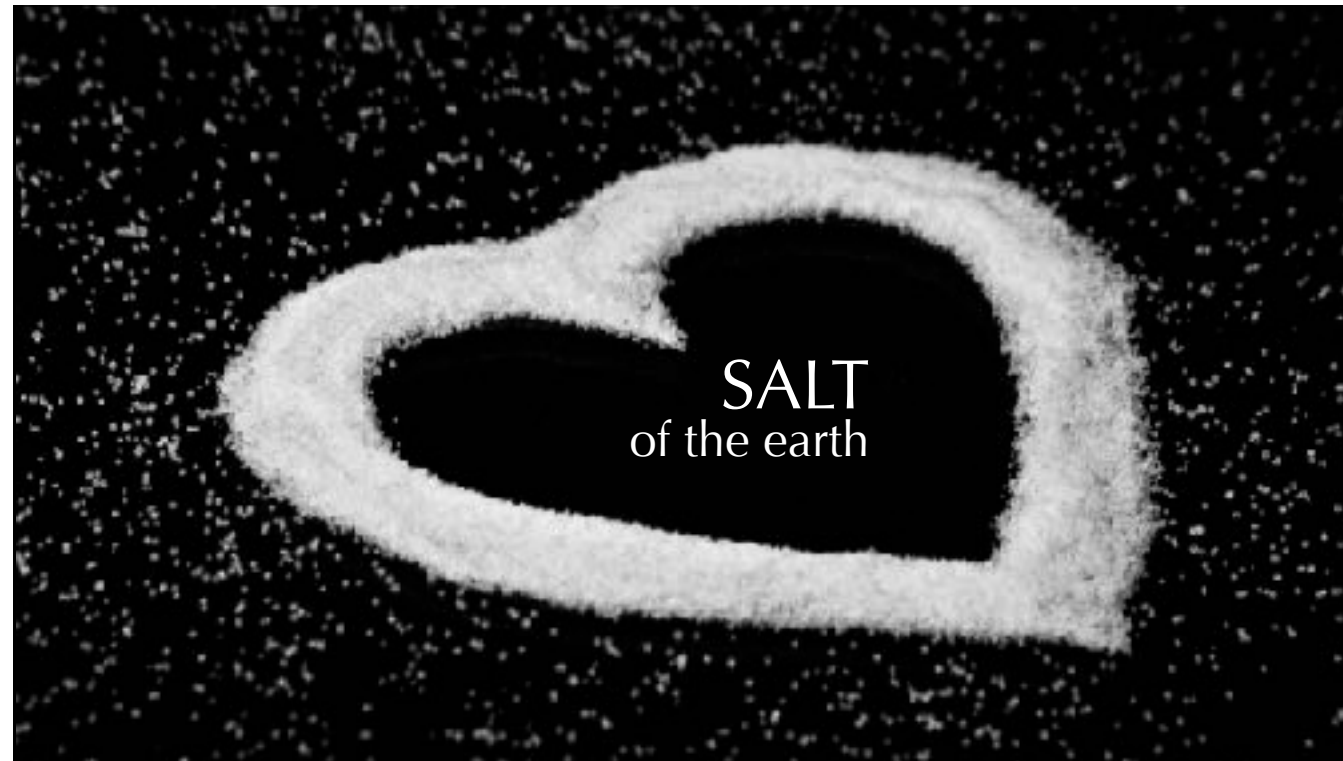
- Rather, without being LIKE the world, we are to CHANGE the world.
- We do that by being salt and light.



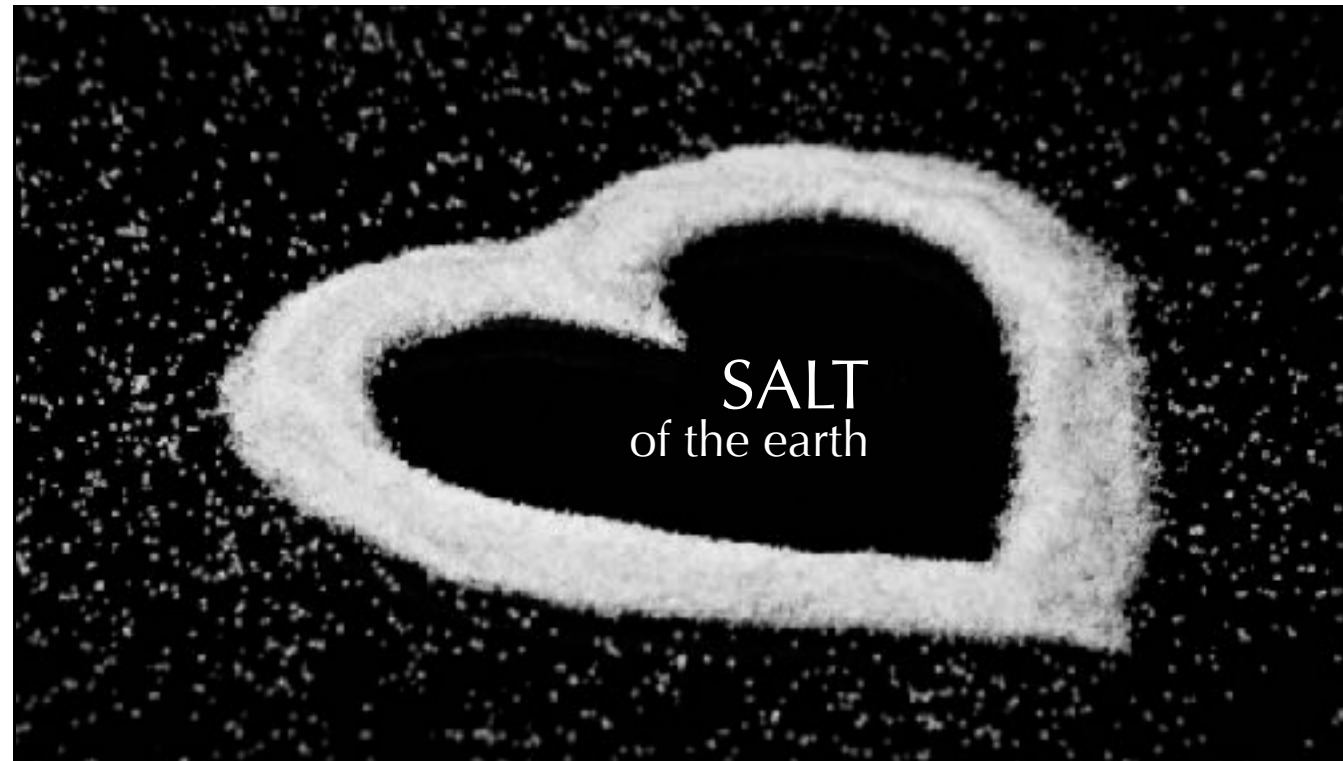
- We must glory in the fact that we are different from the world
 - (we are free in fullest sense of the word).
- We must be noticeably different from world, and it should be obvious and easily recognized.
- Essential to the world... what is world without salt and light?



- Salt
 - Matthew 5:13 (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.



- Generally in these lessons it is pointed out that salt has three purposes
 - Preservation
 - Fertilizer (Luke 14:34)
 - Seasoning (Colossians 4:6)
- And so the Christian is to be an agent of change: brings out flavor; preserves food; prepares ground
 - Bring out what is best in all aspects of his life.



- It may be true...
 - Christian affects those around him as he goes through life.
 - Group talking inappropriately. Christian enters, and they stop talking.
 - Hasn't said anything
 - But people changed their behavior for the better.
- Just by being who we are, we influence our society.



- Light
 - Matthew 5:14-16 (ESV) 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.

LIGHT of the world



- Essence of light is to be light
 - Innate, and outward!
- My light must shine!



- But is that really Jesus' primary point in this passage?
- The more I think about it, the more I think it is not.
- Jesus was giving us a clear warning.
 - There is a great danger for us as we go out into the world



- So what is Jesus warning us about?
 - He could be warning us that we must hold true to our nature... always be salt.
 - The world will want us to compromise our character
 - in some small, insignificant ways,
 - they will convince us that we can be more like them
 - So the world changes us, instead of us changing the world.



- The purpose and function of salt, is to be salty.
 - We are Christians, citizens of His Kingdom, we must always be Christians
 - Salt is innately salt, and that is it's internal quality
 - So we are saints, and we must always be internally saintly.



- Does Salt lose its saltiness?
- If talking about pure salt... no. Very stable compound, esp. if stored dry.
- If talking about salt from natural sources (such as at Jesus' time, whether rock salt or salt marshes) the salt has other components (gypsum, e.g.). When exposed to water, salt dissolves and leaves other components. So the salt would have seemed to have lost its saltiness.

<http://askascientist.co.uk/chemistry/can-salt-lose-its-saltiness/>



- Light
 - The whole purpose of light is to shine, drive away the darkness
 - Genesis 1:15: and let them be lights in the expanse of the heavens to give light upon the earth.” And it was so.
 - “gives light to all in the house”
- Cannot be hidden
- Not put under basket

Have you **lost** your **saltiness**?

- Have you lost your saltiness?
 - Are you the saint that Jesus would have you to be?
 - Do you have the character he has described?

Have you **lost** your **saltiness**?

Are you **hiding** your **light**?

- Are you hiding your light?
 - Do you manifest that character in your walk?



- In what ways do we lose our savor and hide under baskets?
 - Hiding from the world
 - Creative ways that we hide from the world
 - everyone knows I'm a Christian... they should ask me.
 - Hiding in plain sight



- Conforming to the World
 - Romans 12:2: Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.



- 1 Peter 1:14 (ESV) As obedient children, do not be conformed to the passions of your former ignorance,



Conforming

Romans 12:2

- 1 John 2:15 (ESV) 15 Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.
- Inordinate focus on this life... world.
- Jesus: abundant life
- Thief: kill, steal, destroy
- Taught from a very young age to conform...

Private Faith



- “Private” Faith: (It’s just between me and God... no one else needs to know)
 - Matthew 6:6: But when you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

Private Faith



- Inactive Faith: don't invite anyone to study Bible with us; don't invite to assembly; don't study.
- 1 Hour/Week Christianity: showing up for "church" pnce a week, but that's all.
- Minimizing the salt and light
- believe, but not fanatic
 - (blending with world)



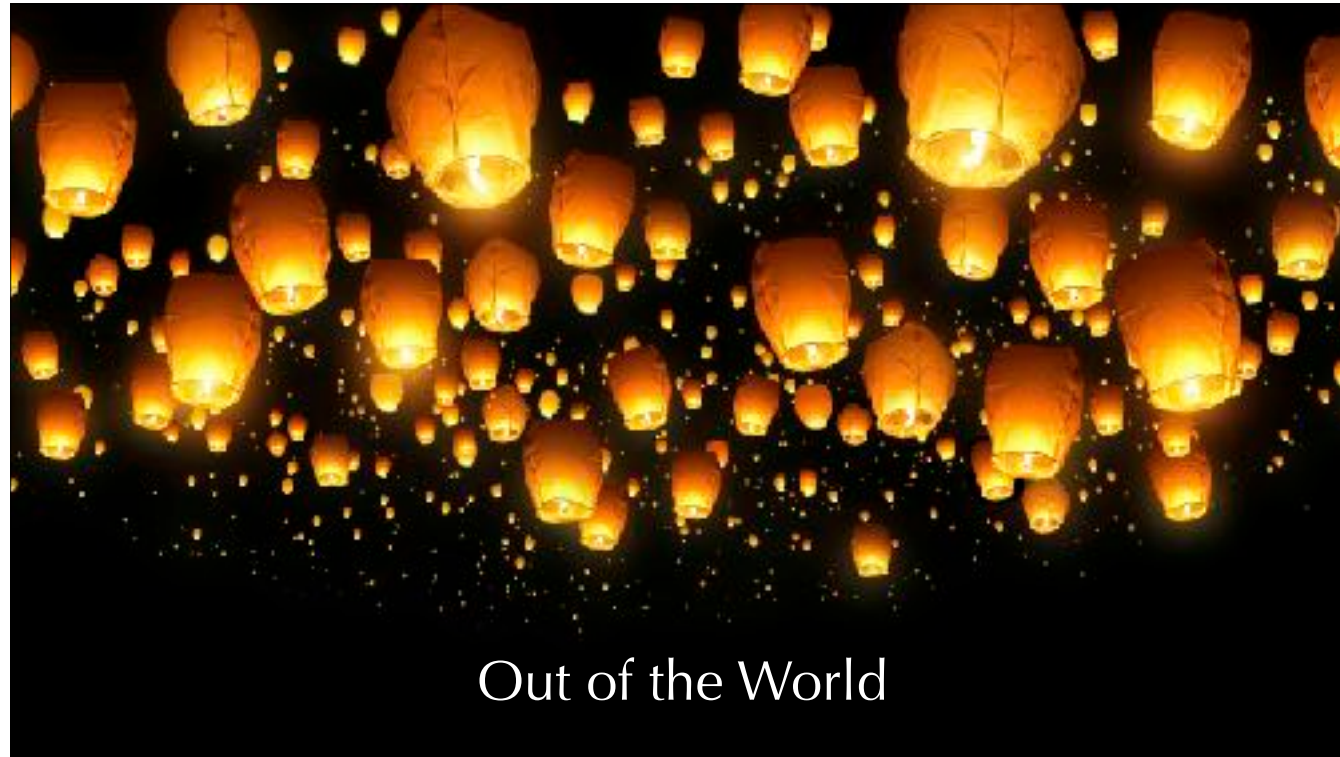
- The way we talk, or don't talk (silence)
- Colossians 4:6: Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you ought to answer each person.
- Do we sound like the world? Patterns, subjects, words
- Are we careful not to sound "over" religious? Don't mention Jesus, Bible, moral authority, praise



- Complaining
 - Philippians 2:14-16: Do all things without grumbling or disputing, 15 that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world, 16 holding fast to the word of life, so that in the day of Christ I may be proud that I did not run in vain or labor in vain.



- Disputing
 - Philippians 2:14-16 (ESV) 14 Do all things without grumbling or disputing, 15 that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world, 16 holding fast to the word of life, so that in the day of Christ I may be proud that I did not run in vain or labor in vain.



Out of the World

- Out of the world...
- Arrogance, being “above” the world, looking down, “holier than thou”
- John and Jesus
 - Matthew 11:18-19: For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, ‘He has a demon.’ 19 The Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, ‘Look at him! A glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!’ Yet wisdom is justified by her deeds.”



- Why do we hide?
 - Fear
 - judgment of friends, world
 - assumptions of others of what it means to be a “real” Christian (their definition)
 - hypocrisy
 - Shy
 - Intellectualism / Theologians: all study, no action



- What's your basket?
 - church building
 - Home
 - office
 - Car



- Hold Fast Word of Life
 - Philippians 2:14-16 (ESV) 14 Do all things without grumbling or disputing, 15 that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world, 16 holding fast to the word of life, so that in the day of Christ I may be proud that I did not run in vain or labor in vain.



- That's what Jesus did... held on to God's righteousness and purpose.
- He didn't fit in with religious leaders... constantly trying to change him, or accuse so others wouldn't listen.
- He made sure he spent time with sinners... they could see what was different and loved him.
 - But he didn't try to be like them at all.
- In the world, not of the world



- Love
 - John 13:35: By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”
 - Not just strict adherence to our rules and interpretations



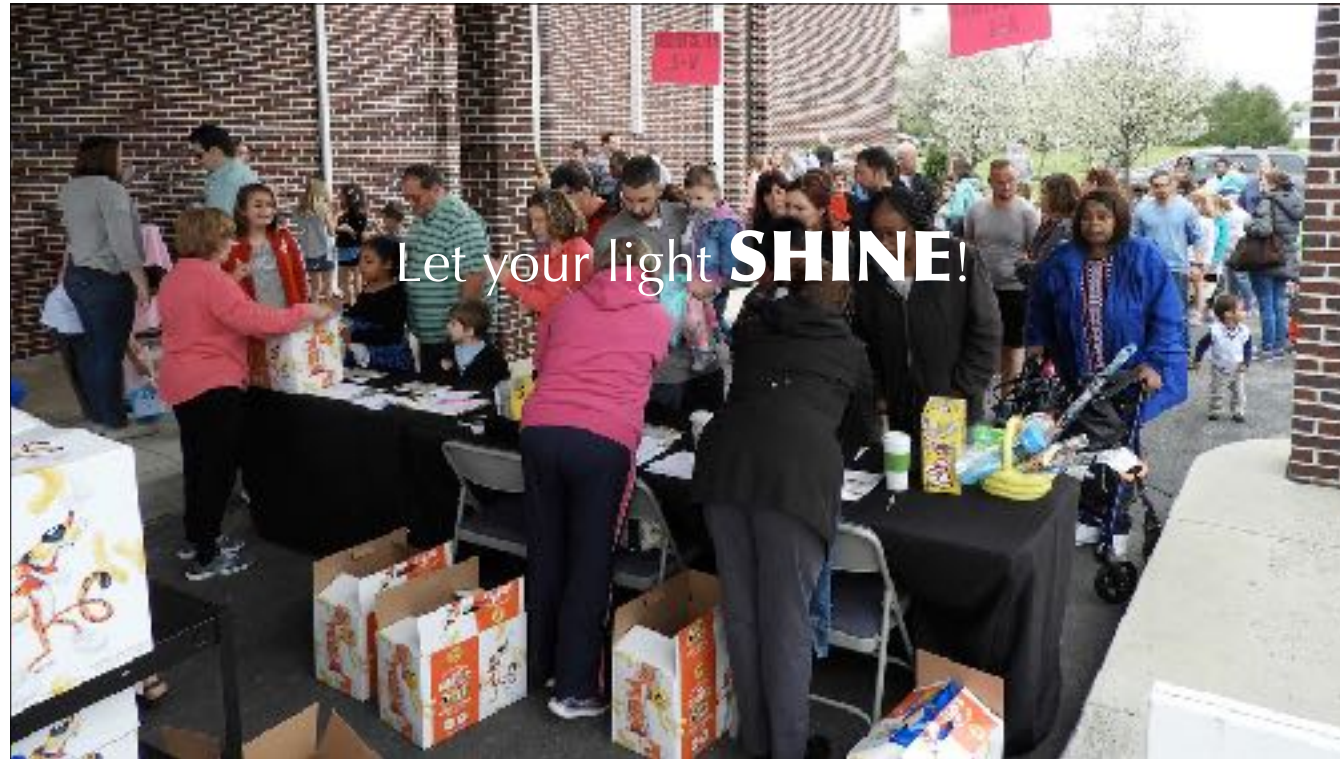
- Conduct honorable
 - 1 Peter 2:12: Keep your conduct among the Gentiles honorable, so that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day of visitation.
- Living according to principles taught in character traits and about to be taught about righteousness.



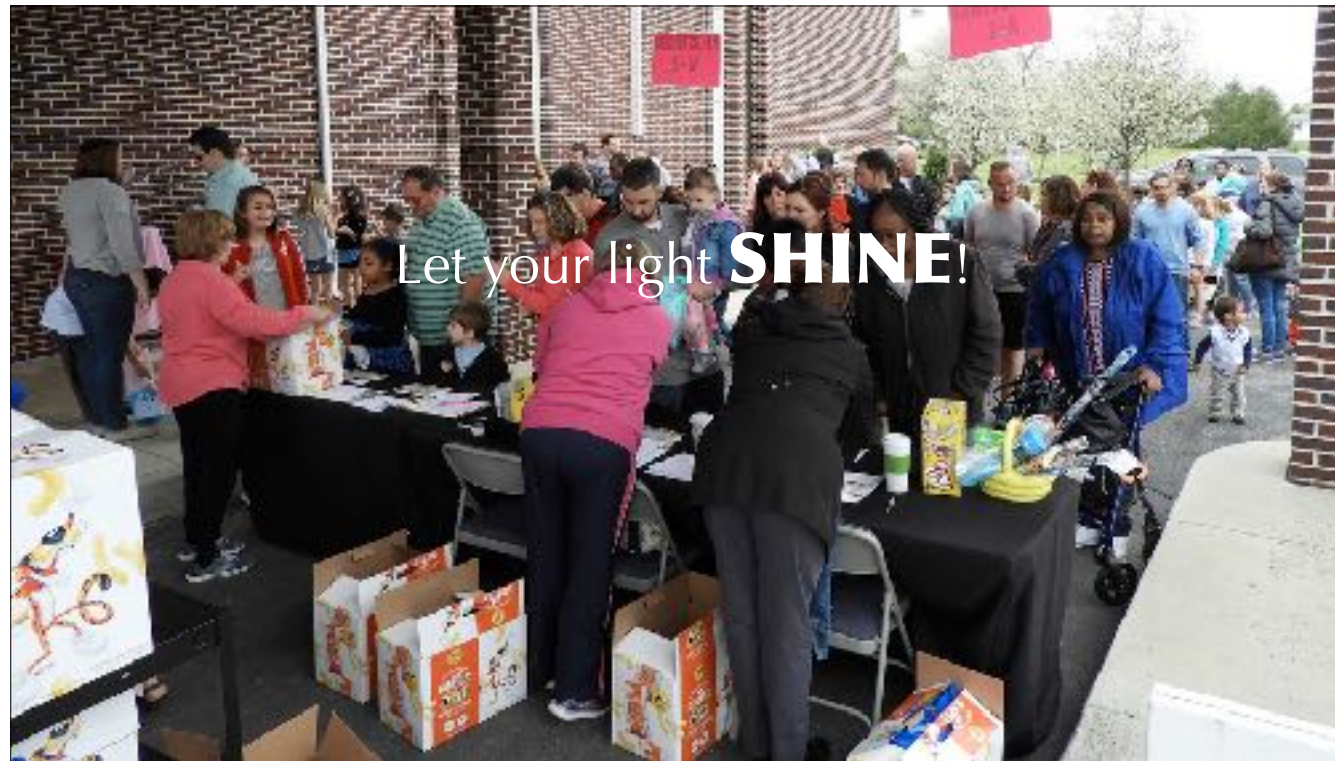
- Adorn the Doctrine
 - Titus 2:9-10 (ESV) 9 Bondservants are to be submissive to their own masters in everything; they are to be well-pleasing, not argumentative, 10 not pilfering, but showing all good faith, so that in everything they may adorn the doctrine of God our Savior.



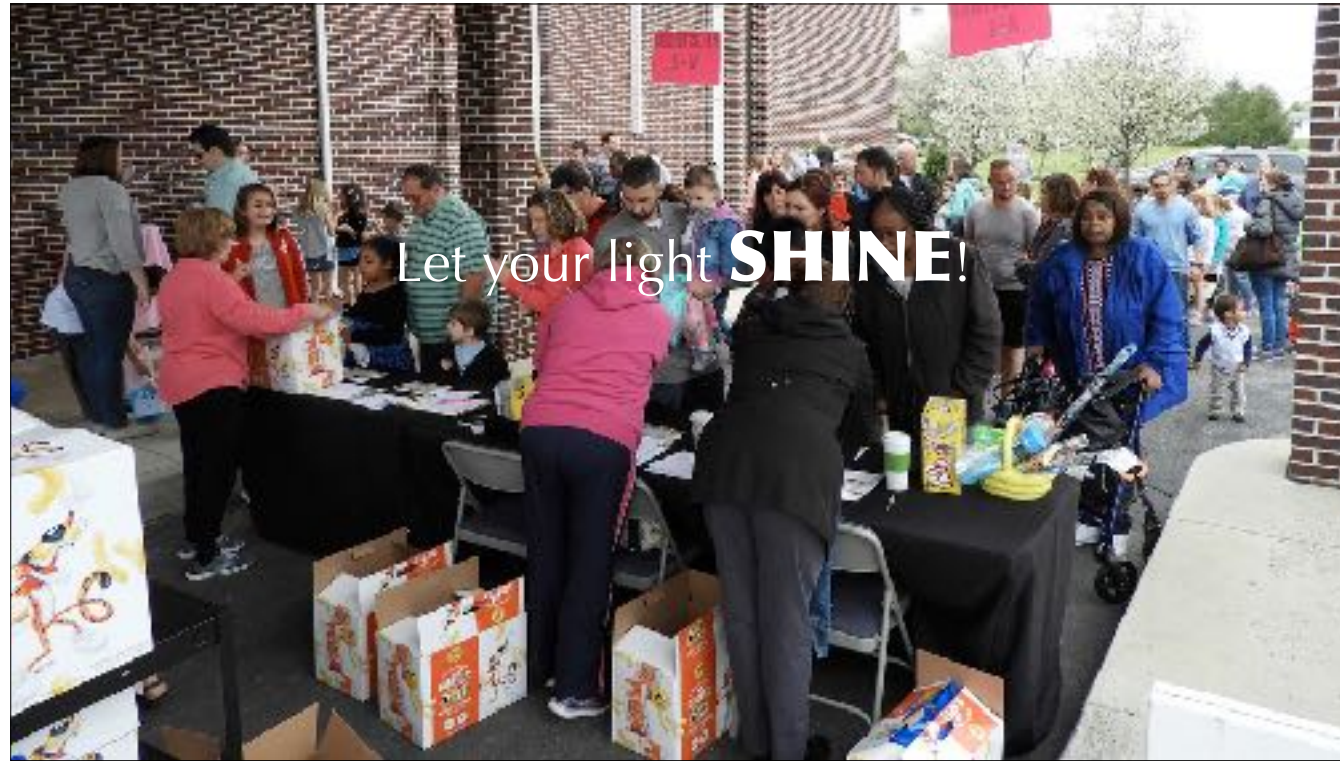
- Make the doctrine look beautiful, attractive, so that others want to hear, obey, live.
 - like plate of beautifully prepared food is more appetizing.
 - you can make righteousness more desirable... those hungering and thirsting will seek it.
- Draw people to Jesus... moth to flame.



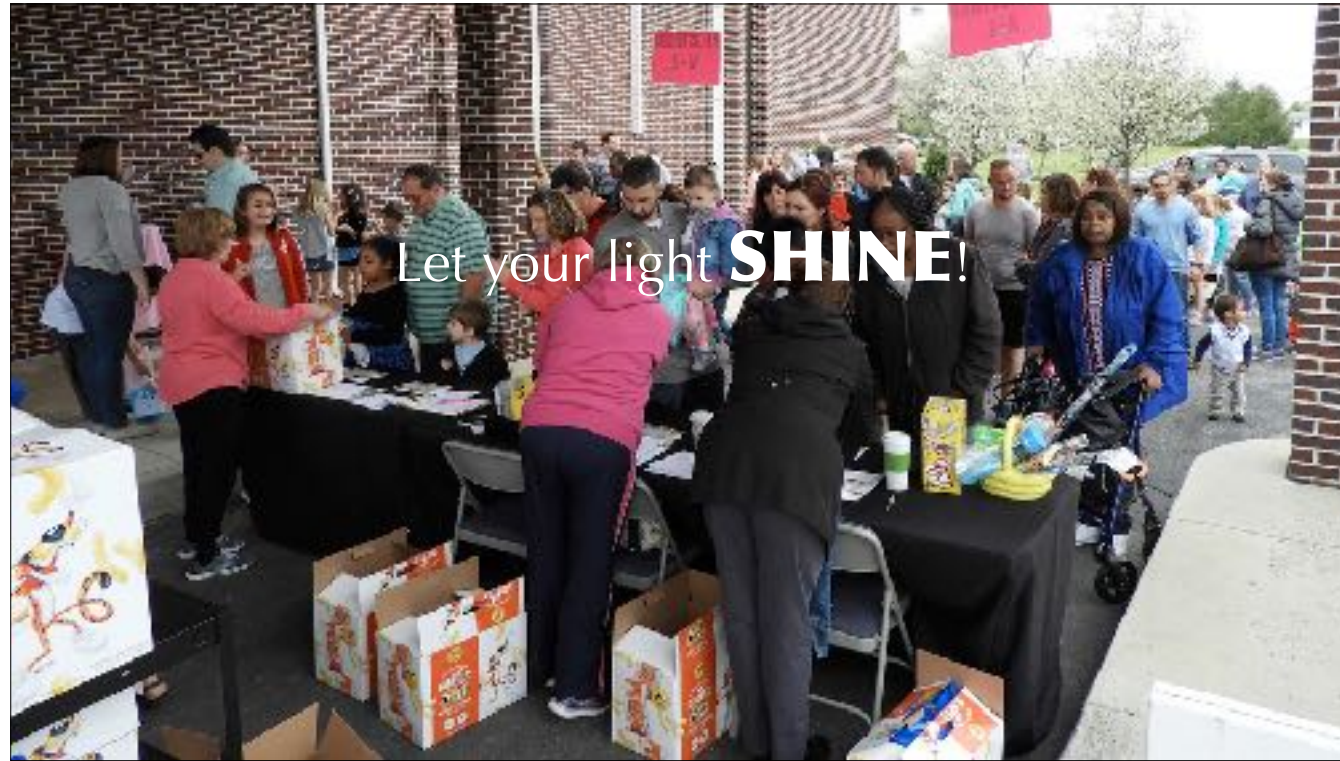
- Good Works
 - Matthew 5:16: In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.
- Includes serving others in community: volunteer!
- Doing something positive for others; seek ways to help.



- Ephesians 5:7-21 (ESV) 7 Therefore do not become partners with them; 8 for at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. **Walk as children of light** 9 (for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true), 10 and try to discern **what is pleasing to the Lord**. 11 Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. 12 For it is shameful even to speak of the things that they do in secret.



- 13 But when anything is exposed by the light, it becomes visible, 14 for anything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says, “Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.” 15 **Look carefully then how you walk**, not as unwise but as wise, 16 making the best use of the time, because the days are evil. 17 Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is.



- 18 And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but **be filled with the Spirit**, 19 **addressing one another** in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart, 20 **giving thanks always** and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, 21 **submitting to one another** out of reverence for Christ.

Let your light **SHINE!**

- Let Your light shine.
- All glory to our Father, who saves us.

**We implore you on
behalf of Christ,
be reconciled to God.**

2 Corinthians 5:20

Let all that you do be done in love.

1 Corinthians 16:14



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What's Your Basket?

Matthew 5:13-16

Synopsis: Jesus tells us that we are the salt of the earth and the light of the world. But he also warns us of a great trap that many disciples of Jesus today have succumbed to: we might stop being salty and we might stop shining. We'll examine some ways in which we hide from the world in this lesson.

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"Let all that you do be done with love."