



# THE WORD *Alive*

The Preaching Ministry of  
Ashley River Baptist Church

## HOW TO SAVE OUR WORLD

### Matthew 5:13-16

13 "You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled by men. 14 "You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden. 15 Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. 16 In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven.

Jesus called His first followers "Salt and Light" of the world because through them God would save the decaying world. This was a great source of encouragement, significance and dignity for those first followers and so it is for all believers today as we carry forth that same responsibility. As such we must not only recognize and embrace our difference from the world, we must understand the eternal purpose for that difference and rejoice in it.

### I. YOU ARE SALT

#### 3 PRINCIPLES OF SALT:

- 1 – It must be APPLIED:
- 2 – It must keep its distinctive "SALTINESS"
- 3 – It fulfills specific PURPOSES

#### THE FUNCTION OF SALT:

- 1 – Preserves: prevents spoilage and rot. Christians help prevent moral decay and rot in the world through word and deed.
- 2 – Flavors: Christians flavor life with vitality, joy, peace and hope.
- 3 – Fertilizes: Christians must promote growth of that which is good and Godly.
- 4 – Creates Thirst: People should thirst for Jesus and Godly things as a result of our "saltiness".

#### Are you functioning as Salt in society?

### II. YOU ARE LIGHT

#### THE NECESSITY OF LIGHT:

Proverbs 4:19 *"But the way of the wicked is like deep darkness; they do not know what makes them stumble."*

Ephesians 5:8 *"For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light."*

**The world is deep darkness! But in this world of deep darkness, God planted YOU, His church, as light.**

#### THE FUNCTION OF LIGHT:

- 1 – Exposes darkness: Spiritually it exposes the reality of evil. Ephesians 5: 13 *But everything exposed by the light becomes visible, 14 for it is light that makes everything visible.*

- 2 – Enlightens: Spiritually it opens the mind of man to truth and the Will and Way of God. 2 Corinthians 4:6 *"For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," made his light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ."*
- 3 - Shows the way: Spiritually it shows the way out of darkness, death, hell and hopelessness. Psalm 119:105 *"Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path."* John 14:6 *"Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."*

### III. YOU ARE COMMANDED TO SHINE

Matthew 5:16 *"In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven."*

We shine by living a Spirit-led holy, biblical life that is separate and distinct from the world. We fulfill our purpose as light and benefit the world ONLY when we shine!

Philippians 2:14 *"Do everything without complaining or arguing, 15 so that you may become blameless and pure, children of God without fault in a crooked and depraved generation, in which you shine like stars in the universe"*

### IV. THE PURPOSE OF SHINING

- 1-That the world may see your good works: We shine in doing good works of righteousness so that the unbelieving world may see something that is different, Godly and appealing. Ephesians 2:10 *"For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do."*
- 2 – That the world will praise the Heavenly Father: Christians who "shine" with good works are zealous to see that God alone get the glory because they recognize that such works are possible ONLY because God is working in and through them. Philippians 4:13 *"I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me"*

### APPLICATION

- 1 – Am I truly Salt and Light? Am I saved and forgiven by Jesus Christ?
- 2 – Am I TRULY living as salt and light? Is my life different and distinct from the world?
- 3 – Am I living IN the world? Am I actively shining or a reclusive hidden light?
- 4 – Am I consciously pursuing my purpose as Salt and Light for God's glory?
- 5 – Am I being renewed daily with the source of Light and Salt from God so that I might shine and be "salty"?

As you "shine" you are useful to this world and your fellow man and in turn fulfill your purpose before God.

As Christians, you must always remember that YOU ALONE are the salt of the earth and the light of the world. As you represent Jesus Christ to the world, you are the hope of the world. May God help us even this day to be different from the world, that the world may benefit by our difference and come to glorify God the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.