

THE AMAZING TEACHINGS OF JESUS (2)

The believer in Jesus Christ is the salt of the world

MATTHEW 5:13 *"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."*

Jesus used **salt and light** to describe the influence that the believers have on a non-Christian society. **Salt** has 2 uses – for flavoring and preserving. There are 41 verses which reference to salt in the Bible. Salt is considered an absolutely essential ingredient in food and without salt it is tasteless. The believer is to make the world a better place to live. The believer is to make life more pleasant and tasty. Many people are bored and discouraged and as a believer we must bring joy and peace into their lives.

Salt preserves. Before the invention of iceboxes and refrigerators, salt was one of the main means of preserving food. When fish were shipped on the backs of donkeys 150 km from Capernaum to Jerusalem, they had to be heavily salted. So the follower of Christ is to act as a preservative in the world. The believers are called to be a moral disinfectant in world where moral standards are low, constantly changing or non-existent. However they can carry out this function only if they themselves retain their saltiness.

What happens to modern society with all its moral rotteness if there is no presence of a Christian Church? It either becomes a communist state with no recognition of God or other laws are installed where mutilating human bodies and killing, terrorism and discriminating against women is done in the name of God.

The presence of the Christian Church has made the following 27 nations the most stable and prosperous countries in the world: vatican, Sweden, Luxembourg, Monaco, Gibraltar, San Marino, Liechtenstein, UK, Netherlands, Ireland, New Zealand, Denmark, Austria, Andorra, Germany, Iceland, Switzerland, Portugal, Australia, Norway, Malta, France, Canada, USA, Belgium, Spain and Italy. All these countries have Christian foundations and churches can be seen everywhere in prominent locations, always in the middle of the villages, towns and cities.

The believer in Jesus Christ is the light of the world

MATTHEW 5:14 *"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 once declared, **"I am the light of the world"** (John 8:12). Now He says, **"You are the light of the world"**. Just as the moon reflects the light of the sun onto the darkened

side of the earth, so the Christian is to reflect the rays of the "Sun of righteousness" on a world darkened by sin.

Believers in the Lord Jesus are like a city that is set on a hill. Like it or not believers are on display before the world all the time. The light of the believers is to be their good works. This light needs to shine consistent with their profession in order to glorify God. To praise the Lord with our lives is even more important than praising Him with our lips. The good word without the good walk is of no avail.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer (February 4, 1906 – April 9, 1945) was a [German Lutheran pastor](#) and [theologian](#). He was also a participant in the [German Resistance](#) movement against [Nazism](#). His involvement in plans by members of the Abwehr (the German Military Intelligence Office) to assassinate Adolf Hitler resulted in his arrest in April 1943 and his subsequent execution by hanging in April 1945, shortly before the war's end. His view of Christianity's role in the secular world has become very influential. He said about the Christian: **"Flight into the invisible is a denial of the call. A community of Jesus which seeks to hide itself has ceased to follow Him"**

The goal of the believer is to worship and praise our Father in heaven and to honor and glorify Him. We must seek to please Him and cause rejoicing in heaven. How is this accomplished? To let our light shine before men so that they may see our good deeds and praise God. So the question is does your language and your behavior causes people to praise God?

Another way to cause joy in heaven is to help people repent from sin. Luke 15:7, "I tell you that in the same way there will be more rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who do not need to repent."

Mark 1:15, "Jesus went into Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God. ¹⁵ "The time has come," he said. "The kingdom of God is near. Repent and believe the good news!"

We must forgive those who repent, even 7 times in a day!

Luke 17:4, "If your brother sins, rebuke him, and if he repents, forgive him. ⁴ If he sins against you seven times in a day, and seven times comes back to you and says, 'I repent,' forgive him."

Repent and be baptized

Peter is preaching the Gospel of Jesus Christ to the people who crucified Him. Acts 2:36-38, "God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ." When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles, "Brothers, what shall we do?" Peter replied, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit."