

Be What God Made You, Where God Put You

2023.12.31 Morning Sermon in Matthew 5:13–16

13 “You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt loses its flavor, how shall it be seasoned? It is then good for nothing but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot by men. 14 “You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. 15 Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. 16 Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.

Main idea: God has made us salt for Himself, so that we mustn’t try to be unsalty. And God has placed us where we are, and where we are therefore seen, for Himself; so, we mustn’t try to evade notice.

Introduction: can you have blessing without persecution? (2Tim 3:12)

1. GOD has made us what we are.
 - a. Back to indicative.
 - b. Not a command to be salt or to be light.
 - c. Jesus informs them (us, if we are believers) of what they already are.
2. Don’t shrink from WHAT you are.
 - a. Avoid the temptation to become “fool’s salt.”
 - b. The point of salt, here, is that it is different from the earth. (cf. Lev 2:13; Num 18:19; 2Chr 13:5; Mk 9:49–50; Col 4:6)
 - c. Your flesh will chafe against persecution, but though fool’s salt be indistinguishable to men, God sees the difference. And He responds accordingly!
 - d. Rejoicing over having God Himself in Christ Himself is the key to fortifying against the desire to fit in and not attract persecution.
3. Don’t shrink from WHERE you are.
 - a. Jesus Himself had made them like a little city on the hill where He was preaching to them.
 - b. The lamp does not place itself. The one who lights it places it.
 - c. And He places it to the advantage of His own purposes. Just as the Father loves to glorify the Son, so also the Son loves to glorify the Father, and He has put you where you are to display the glory of your Father in that particular place and way.
 - d. N.B. the previous beatitudes. This is to be done especially by good character and good works (cf. Eph 2:8–10; 1Pet 2:11–12 in the context of v13–20). As a great honor, in dependence upon God (cf. Ac 5:41, cp. 4:21–31). For the glory of the Father (Php 2:14–16).
 - e. This glory will come by varying responses from others, according to whether they are responding from unrestrained flesh, flesh restrained by common grace, or even God’s own special grace.

Conclusion: Be what God has made you, where God has put you!

(The following is a machine-generated transcription. Please be aware of—and patient with—transcribing errors. If there is something confusing or obviously erroneous, you are invited to listen to the audio recording via hopewellarp.org)

Matthew 5 verse 13 through 16. These are God's words. You are. The salt of the earth. But it's the salt loses, its flavor. How shall it be seasoned? That is then good for nothing. But to be thrown out. And trampled under foot. By men. You are. The light of the world.

A city that is set on a hill. Cannot be hidden. Nor do they like to lamp and put it under a basket. Put on a lamp stand. And it gives light to all who are in the house. Let your light so shine. Before men. That they may see your good works and glorify.

Your father. In heaven. Oh man, the sends this reading of gods inspired. And errant authoritative. Sufficient. Effective word. We had all of these blessings to it by his own power. Please be seated.

Well, one of the difficulties when We decide that. We'd really like to spend more time in the last part. We're parts of A sermon is that we lose the effect? Of the connection with the preceding portion. And that's something that's very important for us to be able to understand what is going on here.

When jesus having turned to them in verse 11 and started again with Uh with the second person. Now not so much beatitude has been addiction if you'll remember from last week and he says blessed, are you when they persecute when they revile in persecute you and say all kinds of evil against you falsely from my sake, some of you who memorize your verses, Memorized that and And we pray that by the help of the spirit, you have received that very personally and directly from the lord.

Jesus blessed, are you? But he's talking about blessing that comes of course with and in And through persecution. Even the last beatitude, which has is what instigated that benediction and verse 11? Last week blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness sake? And so he comes and he makes it personal.

Not this personal with respect to them blessed, are you? And they persecute you. But personal with respect to himself, Where for righteousness, sake, is for my sake, for the lord, jesus is sake. This is where the righteousness came from. This is why the righteousness looks like that. And how great does the joy of the believer who has not merely a correct?

Legal standing with god, a restored legal standing with god. Not nearly even correct living before god to, which men are beginning now to respond. But far, more than the standing. And the Character and conduct we have god himself in the lord, jesus christ. And so, not only do we have him on earth, whom we are treasuring, and we're persecuted on for his take on earth, but great, as our reward in heaven, our great already.

Not great, shall be our award in heaven. But we have, God himself. And therefore he goes, he went from benediction versus 11. You remember to command verse 12, Rejoice. And we exceedingly, glad For great as your lord in heaven. Well, can i have this great reward? This blessedness of union with christ, this blessedness of having the god of heaven as my father.

Whom i have now, Couldn't i just have him without the Being reviled and persecuted. And slandered bit. And the answer, of course, is no. You remember not too long ago, we were in

second Timothy and Paul coming to the close of Of his writing to his protege. Yeah, even his son in the faith.

And in the ministry, Timothy reminding him of how much falsehood there would be in the churches. And how much falsehood there would even be in the pastoral ministry? The elders ministry. In the churches. But urging Timothy to continue. In what he has learned. And with a doctrine and the ministry that he has seen, In paul and that he knew from his babyhood, Um, Lowest, and eunice and taught him the bible.

And even as the new testament scriptures, were being written. But of course, he would have to continue and receiving persecutions and enduring persecutions. And, Paul reminded him, you know, That everyone who desires to live godly in christ jesus. Must be persecuted. Must suffer persecution. Especially from the church. As the implication there.

And as we've been, considering it here in matthew chapter 5 Is also the implication here, isn't it? Because the u to the people at the top of the mountain or up the hill. With the lord jesus who have assembled to him, you remember, there's a great mold that you at the bottom and it wasn't a multitude of having And overtly.

Worldly. Uh, time they were there for the fame of jesus and because of what jesus was doing, it was a jesus festival, if you will At the bottom of the mountain. When it was those who had seen him take the posture. That he takes in the synagogue when it's time for a sermon.

You remember, he had gone up to them up the mountain and what was it? That triggered. Those who drew near to him, when he sat down, he sat down to preach, just as he would do in the synagogue, we know. From luke. And so the blessed are you? When they The u is those who are with him on the mountain.

They in the immediate context is actually those having the jesus festival at the bottom of the mountain. And, Be surprised. Uh, you know, the words of Peter, don't be surprised at the fiery trial that has come up on. You don't be surprised. So the more you gather to jesus because he is everything.

The more you hear his word and respond to his word and our conformed, to him the more even those who have jesus festivals and who consider themselves to be the visible church, Will denounce you. And persecute you. And say all kinds of evil things about you, falsely for his sake.

But know that it's for his sake. That you have him and the earth. Now, you have him in heaven, but you're united to him, even while you're on the earth, you have a spirit dwelling in you by his spirits, the father and the son have come and made their home with you and you have in heaven.

Not only your father, who is the living god but your savior god the son, the lord jesus who sits on the throne and by faith. Not only do we have him with us here but as ephesians tells us, Multiple places. We are seated within in the heavenly places. Indeed.

We come to him in this worship as we have mentioned and heard. Many times. And so that is the background, the context of verses 13 through 14. Or sorry, 13 through 16. It's the rest of the sections and i flipped page here. That is the context of verses 13 through 16.

You are what you are and you are where you are. For the lord, jesus's sake. By the lord jesus's wisdom. For your father's sake. By your father's wisdom. And so do not shrink. From being

what you are. However, Hard and nasty and uncomfortable. The response is. Do not shrink from being.

What god has made you to be. In christ, jesus. He's been speaking in the third person. Blessed to the poor. Blessed are those who mourn blessed? Are the meek buster. Those who hunger bless to. The merciful blessed are the pure in heart blessed to the peacemakers. Plus to those who are persecuted.

But in the context of the book of matthew, you remember, and we pointed this out several times as we went through. A believer is these things because jesus has made it in these things. Even we are ourselves, could not make ourselves. These things, that was the pharisees mistake. And even the visible church and the outward signs.

At that time, the baptism of john with water could not make us what we needed to be. But jesus by his spirit has made us. What we are? And so, that'll be the first. Main heading, and Our sermon this afternoon? God has made us what we are. God has made us what we are.

And then in the second place, we will see especially in verse Uh, 13. And the Thoughts of the earth do not shrink from what you are. That's the main point in verse 13. What is it that God makes those whom he's saving? And what are you really? Uh sadly.

Shrinking from if you shrink from being that. So do not shrink from what you are, And then in verses 14 through 16. Do not shrink. From where you are. God is the one who puts you. Where you are in your home. In his church, the visible church. In your community, your nation.

Do not shrink from where you are. So, in the first place it is god. Who has made us? What we are. What we are, you are the salt. Of the earth. You. Are the light of the world. Notice he is not saying here. In the same sort of verb rejoice, And be exceedingly.

Glad He doesn't say we have joy. He doesn't say we have. He's has rejoice and be exceedingly glad to commandment. It's a blessed. Come in. We spent a fair amount of time on that last lord's day. But here he is not saying be the salt of the earth. Or be salty.

It's implied. But, Emphasis is on what he has already done. He does say, let your light so shine. But even that is a command with respect to something that he has already put in us. Because of what he has made us. You are the light of the world. So let your light so shine.

But in, in that particular place, All right, when we get to verse 16, it'll be before men. And it's the location. Because he has chosen which men are going to see you and your family. You didn't get to choose your parents didn't get to choose your children unless you adopted them.

Then praise god. But that comes in his providence as well. Then get to choose your brothers and sisters. God. Has picked where to put you. So, Sorry, we started into the third point there, but Do not shrink from where you are. Because, God is the one he has made us salt.

God is the one who has made us light and particularly, he has done that in christ. God, the son is the one who has done that by his spirit. This is, again, the true and great christian baptism. Not which that which is done on earth. With the physical sign by the servants of christ, but that which is done from heaven.

By his holy spirit. Or with his holy spirit by christ. Himself. He is the one who baptizes. With his spirit. And so this is not initially a command to be salt, or even a command to be light. When we get there, it will be a command to shine. In the appointed place.

But we are liked. See jesus is informing them. And informing us if we are believers. Of what we already. Now, if you are not a believer, And we should probably. Be more specific, shouldn't we? As many have different ideas of what a believer is. Perhaps someone who asked jesus into their hearts at a prayer.

God is sticker. Put it in their bible. Or maybe even told by. Someone who didn't understand, he was tying a millstone around his own neck. If you're ever worried about your salvation, just look at that sticker and remember that. You said this today? Oh, that's not a believer. What's a believer?

Who are? These who Our salt and our light. Well, it's those Who by the grace of christ applied to them, by his holy spirit, have discovered that their spiritually bankrupt verse three and grieve over their sin and our, our lowly Before the lord. Verse five, verse six, his hunger and thirst.

For. More and more righteousness and their character and their conduct now is the consequence of having hunger and thirst for a right standing with god that they could not secure, but only christ could secure and he has obtained for them. Our merciful now because not only have they obtained mercy, which made them merciful to begin with, but but god has Um, guaranteed to them in the lord jesus, that they will be vindicated on the last day openly acknowledged and acquitted that in the day of wrath, they won't get wrath.

They'll get mercy. There are single-minded towards god and and the more he makes himself their desire, he shows himself to be their possession. Verse 8. Those who long for all of creation to be as it should be. And especially for men. To be reconciled to god through christ and sanctified.

Into the image of christ and therefore, wherever they go, they are bringers of Not just original creation before the fall piece, but new creation piece. And so they they bring as it were shalom or a reina here for Where wherever they go. And that's what they seek most of all for other people.

Not even that we would have Some kind of tranquility in our interaction with one another. But that they would have peace with god and that there having with them. Having peace with god, we would have peace with one another. That is true peace in christ. Not what, you know the world means or maybe even many worldly in the church mean by reconciliation.

But that true. The only genuine reconciliation that is in christ. But ultimately, those who have him. And who have god himself as their great reward. If that's not you. Then, when you hear the first point of the sermon, Addressed to others. It's really like reading someone else's mail. Or listening to someone else's message.

When you hear others being told, god has made you what you are. You should know. That god offers to you. To have him as your reward to have christ as your righteousness to to have your spiritual bankruptcy. Answered by the riches that are in jesus christ. So that having grieved over your sin, you know, that god has wiped it out in the cross of jesus christ.

That if you believe in him, And you confess him. That those things. Have come. Not merely by you hearing a sermon and deciding. Yes, i want that. But because the god, you gave the word that has preached and the god who gave the preaching of the word comes by his power.

And he has given you to believe, and he has given you to confess, and he has made you salt and he has made you liked. And there is no sinner on earth. To whom that has not offered. Believe in the lord jesus christ. And you will be safe. And then, when you come and you say, Well now, I want to be salt.

I want to be light. Scripture comes and says, He's already made you salt. Has already made you light. Be what you are. And so in the second place, not only that god has made us what we are. But not to shrink. From what we are. Here, the instruction is that there's such a thing as fools salt.

You are the salt of the earth, but if the salt And now it says loses its flavor here. And there is a parallel that passage and in, mark nine versus 49 and 50, which is going to help us understand why salt and what salt But in that place when it says, if the salt loses its flavor, it actually says becomes unsalty.

And that's more helpful in that context. Here. It actually says. If the salt is moronic or becomes moronic, Um, the, the verb is the verb for to become a fool and you can hear the word, moron, i Um, And thankfully in god's providence. Not with salt. Uh, although some of us, you know, Uh, we were convinced at some point that sodium in your diet is horrible for you.

And so, You know, we switched to potassium chloride or Or even we had, Something i think it was potassium chloride. Growing up in the cupboard at our house. Is called no salt. That's almost there, but we do have an english. Don't we the phrase fool's gold. And that is a very apt.

Analogy for the linguistics of what's. Uh, what's what's being said, here? You are the salt of the earth? But if the salt is full salt, How shall it be made salty? And yes, the word seasoned there is Is for, Being made salty. Would you see the salt of the earth here?

Is first and foremost in the context of the bible. Yes, salt was used widely as a preservative and also as a seasoning. Uh, you may have heard sermons and which is a fault was not used as a seasoning. Well, it was used as a seasoning, all the way back in Leviticus too, through which we've been recently.

So yeah, you don't have to Uh, you don't have to fall for that. But it isn't leviticus 2, isn't it? That We first hear about the saltiness of these offerings, that are ascended, that ascend unto God, and especially the tribute to offering Leviticus. Two verse 13 that they were not to offer any tribute to without the salt or any offering any brought near thing.

Uh, without salt. Okay. Uh, later in numbers, 18 verse 19 would call this the the salt of the covenant. That which That which must be included with every ascension that where you hear, it's going to be difficult. Many of you have not sat under or heard a little bit of caspreaching.

Um, the whole burnt offering is just the ascension, that's all it says there in in the Hebrew that which is called. The grain offering is actually the word for tribute. And then the third primary offering was the piece, but salt Should a company, all of these things? He comes and numbers 18 verse 19 to refer to.

The salt of the covenant. With respect. To them at that time. And then later, second chronicles 13, Uh, 13 verse 5. The point of the salt here is that go out when god who is in heaven. Engages with earth. Those with whom, he has bound himself those who genuinely draw near to him by the blood of the substitute, and the ascion of the substitute, and they are joined to him.

He sees on earth those who belong to himself, in heaven. Those to whom he has drawn near those among whom he has made his dwelling. The salt in. Chapter 5 and verse 13. Is not. Preserving the world. Or even the church. The world and the church in chapter 5 and verse 13 are busy.

Persecuting the salt. And so there is this desire. If i get persecuted for being salty. Can't i just Be less salty.

But what? God sees from heaven. When he looks upon the earth and here, it's not the dirt word for earth. It's the it's well. Some of you have heard, unfortunately, in the resurfacing of many wicked, False religions. The word gaia. Uh, you may have heard it's the same. Word for that here.

That when God looks at the earth. He sees those who are his, he sees those who are of a different nature. They belong to him. And yes, there is this. Peace. Making this. This shalom, that, that they are producing wherever they go because they belong to the peace making god, and they have become a peace making people, but they live in a world that does not want to have the peace of god.

And the do not want to have. Peace with those who belong to god. But you are god, salt and you are in covenant with him. And wanting to be less salty. Is wanting to not be his.

And the lord will trample. Those who are not his. The desire. To be less salty. Is a desire. To be useless. And blessingless. To be someone who does not bring. Shalom, where you go? And who has not recognized from heaven. As god's children. It is to turn verse 9.

Inside out. And upside down. And backwards. You see all humanity is? Split into two different groups. And that's where the mark nine passage goes. Those who are going to be seasoned with fire and those who are seasoned with salt. The ones who are seasoned with fire, are those who are trampled, underfoot, who are under the wrath of god.

And those who are seasoned with salt, are the ones who are identified with the substitute who attend to, who not attend, who ascend to god himself, who are joined to jesus christ, who are received into heaven. They are not burned with the fire of god's wrath. They ascend as pleasing smoke.

They belong to god. There is. So yes. Salt. Is useful on earth. But the usefulness. Is especially understood already in verse 9. Bluster. The peacemakers. The point of the saltiness here in, Verse 13 is what we are to god. And so do not shrink. From what you are. Our flesh chafes against the persecution.

Men will accept christianity. That is not genuine.

And we have churches that are full Of a christianity that men will accept. Because in god's providence, to us, we come upon the heel on the heels of generations. The. Point of the next pass. Next portion of the passage versus 14 through 16 Uh, be What you are where you are.

Has somehow fallen out of of the churches. And now we think that if we make the church tolerable enough to unbelievers, That we can somehow get more of them saved. But what we have done, is we have filled churches with fool's salt.

And there are many, who think. That they are going to come. And enjoy god's mercy. On the last day. But he has not the reward now. Christ, does not everything to them. Now, They do not desire. To bring reconciliation with the world to god being spreaders of righteousness.

He says. Resist. Resist the desire. To be palatable to the world. Resist the desire to dial back, the saltiness by all back. The difference. Just enough that you don't have to be persecuted. Anymore. Because by the time you've done that. What god sees when he looks upon the earth.

Is no distinction. No difference. Now distinction. And there will be no distinction then in what they receive from him. Universe. 13 is a pretty strong warning, isn't it?

That if we are full salt, we will be trampled. So, do not shrink from what you are. Well, how do we do this? Well, how we do it is actually in the first half of the sermon last week. And may the lord. Bless your recall, how you do it is.

Having your reward, not on earth. Great is our reward in heaven. Great is your persecution on earth. Sure. But great is your reward. In heaven already himself, who looks on the earth and and yeah, they those who are on the earth, see the distinction and they hated and they let you know that they hate it.

But god, from heaven sees the distinction. And he sees those who are in covenant with him, those who are bound to him those who have been reconciled to him. And he loves it. So rejoice over having god himself. Rejoice that you have god himself in christ himself. Be heavenly minded so that you may be useful on the earth.

I'm sure you've heard the Pithy horrible thing. Uh, too heavenly minded to be of any earthly, use. That is not the way actual heavenly mindedness works. Actual heavenly-mindedness. It's so satisfied with god. So glad to identify with him. So glad to be united to christ. So glad to live righteously, because that's how to live out of our union, with Christ who has made us, right with god and our, making our character and conduct right with himself.

That's to be heavenly minded and that actually makes you earthly useful. And here's one of the ways. As you are reviled as you are persecuted as your slandered. You are not. Being overwhelmed and over a period of time, becoming in bittered and hostile. Which someone can do that. They could take this passage and they can say, well, let's because i'm salt and they're not, i'm gonna let them know how salty saltiness can be because that's what the world needs is to become more like me.

Like i am ablative phrase. No, to be heavenly minded. Is to become also, the peacemaker, isn't it? You got to go back to verse 9. And to say i have god and i have christ and what they need is god and what they need is christ and his righteousness that they hate.

It's actually good for them and because i love my enemy, i'm still going to pursue righteousness even where he puts me. And that brings us to. Versus 14 through 16. You are salt. So, don't shrink from what you are. You are light versus 14 through 16, so don't shrink from where you are.

You are the light of the world. They do not light a lamp and put it under a basket. But on all lampstand and it gives light to all who are in the house. Now if you were looking at your worship, booklet or even better, you have got a copy of your bible open, you notice that i skipped phrase Or a whole sentence actually.

Says you are the light of the world and then he you and praise god. The holy spirit does not obey our, you know, rules for literature you mixes his metaphor. Which is a lighter city. Well, it's light and city in order to show us that the main point. Is not so much.

Um, nature as it is location. You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill. Cannot be hidden. You know who really feel exposed? At this point of the sermon, that jesus is preaching. The people that he called up the hill, They can't be hidden.

There where everyone can see them. And it's within visible distance. To. A close enough visible distance. That the ones who got there, got there because they could see that jesus was sitting

down to preach. And where jesus was going to be preaching, they wanted to be hearing. They wouldn't let the sermon pass them by, so they went up to him.

But jesus has done that, hasn't he? In the logistics of how the situation happened. He's the one who made them. A city on a hill. Yes, i'm grateful to god for All that he did for us and his mercy and common grace through Ronald Reagan. But the united states is not the city on the hill.

The city on the hill is those for him. Christ is everything. Those who have been transformed by jesus. To be salt with his covenant. To be light for his light, you know, he is the light of the world. But as he redeems people and brings them into conformity to himself, He makes them to be children of light.

With his own brightness. So you can you can see them almost squirming. He's blessed, are you? And they revile and persecute you and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for my sake, and there's the you on the hill and there's a day at the bottom of the hill, And the lord jesus did not come to bring peace but a sword.

Perhaps, there are even families. In which some members went up the hill and some some members are at the bottom of the hill. The lord jesus warns. Us ahead of time. There are going to be they're going to be parents against children and brothers against sisters and husbands against wives.

But jesus is the one who put them where they are. Because he doesn't want them hidden. So resist not only the the desire, the temptation to be, you know, to dial back. The christianity. So so, you know, shrinking from what you are verse 13 with the salt But to dial it back where you are.

In your family. This is not a call to obnoxiousness. Just loving him and walking with him. Is going to be enough. Obnoxiousness all by itself. You don't need to Bring any more from your to the table with your, or from your flash. But you notice the, the city. Is not does not set itself on the hill and the lamp does not set itself on the stand.

Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket? But on a lamp stand and it gives lights to all who are in the house. We're just to say the lamp doesn't place itself. The one who made you, light also has picked for you the place that you're going to be.

It is he who has picked your family for you? It is he who arranges the members of the body as he will first corinthians chapter 12. You know, it's easy to take general teaching, it's sometimes it's more difficult to take specific teaching. You can imagine in Corinth as they're reading and hearing first corinthians and they're looking around.

And the people that they have been saying they are not part of the body or the others who themselves have been saying, i am not part of the body. He comes in first Corinthians 12 and he says, god is the one who arranged as the members however he wishes it is really hot.

Can someone? You know, stop that people are dying and i am dying. Thank you.

Excuse me, for Not dressing according to my office. Um,

He is the one who has arranged the body. And he's the one who in his providence. He put you in your community. He put you in your nation. That means something for you who are gathered here. That most of the christians in the history of the church have not had They did not have the opportunity to affect legislation.

They did not have. Places in the operation of their local community where there was the invitation of voices to be heard.

And so rather than shrinking from where he has put us and yes, that means in our home first and in our church second, but it does mean in our community. And in our nation. For most of the history of the church, this is just meant Yeah, your social score.

Uh, to use a contemporary Chinese illustration. Your social score is going to end up negative and you're not going to get to be anyone or buy anything. Which isn't new. Which is why people who read that stuff in revelation from an American context are like, oh, China's in revelation, look.

The whole history of the churches in revelation. Because it has always been almost always an almost all places. That if you let your light shine where God put you, If you take the stand that he has put you on, you say, I'm going to be. I am going to have Christ as everything.

To me. And I'm going to try to follow his word as well, as I can out of love to those in my family, that creates difficulty tension in our households. Because most of our households end up with some lowest common denominator of spirituality and dads. It's usually ours. That if you have a spiritually weak and inconsistent, father and husband that even if the wife and children are maturing and godliness, they will dial it back because they don't want dad to feel bad about how what a spiritual run he is or maybe even unconverted.

But it can be anyone in the household. As you grow, and as you mature, is very difficult. To be the only lord stay keeping kid. In a lord's day profaning family. So that if you do, everyone else feels the pressure of that. It creates tension and conflict. But do not shrink from what you are and do not shrink from where you are because God has put you there.

And he is glorified. He is glorified by all of the responses will. Will abbreviate the The rest here. Will come. Especially to To letter e. If you're following on the outline, There are different responses that you are going to receive. If there are responding to you from their flesh, yeah, they're going to denounce you.

They're going to revile you. They're going to hate how. Good, you are becoming. They may actively persecute you. And they will speak of good as if it were evil and they will invent evil things so that they can speak more evil.

But if that is the consequence of being what he has made you where he has made you Then keep shining there. Even their resistance to him in you, glorifies your father. And then there's a response that sometimes comes by common grace. Where God uses believers to actually benefit men.

And they see what the believers are doing. They say, hey, that's good. We're richer. Through that. We have less crime. Through that. It sure is helpful to have neighbors like that all over the place. That guy is the best employee I have. He's hated by a bunch of the other employees.

Because he doesn't participate in their conversations and he doesn't let himself think about the boss that way or talk about the boss that way. But he also doesn't cut corners He puts in a good day's work. It doesn't grumble. And then God's common grace, he gives them to see enough of what is good that they respond to you.

Well, But there are also those in whom who are not responding from the flesh and not even responding from common grace, but God in his special grace. Is beginning to save them.

He is giving them to, to, by his spirit to come alive. Spiritually. And he is going to bring them to hear his word maybe even from you.

Because perhaps they want to know what makes you different and what makes you attractive in that way? And it's because he's saving them. Whichever one of those three responses you get and i know we could break it down even more, but those are The general categories. It glorifies your father in heaven.

Whether it glorifies him. Because they hate him and they see you him and you You're a child of light, in the midst of a blameless. Or you are. What we should start from the beginning of the verse. You do all things without complaining and arguing so that you Maybe a child of god.

Walking as light in the midst of a blameless. And pure I did it again. Corrupt and perverse exact opposite. The children are blameless and pure generation is corrupted and perverse. But that glorifies your father. Because he's produced his resemblance in you and that's what they hate. And when the goodness of his good law, that you are walking according to out of your union with christ because you are salt because you are light actually brings benefits.

That glorifies your father. Because his wisdom is good and his law is good. And even in his providence, he has put among them christians who are benefiting them, who deserve to already be in hell and will be Without glorifies your father, in his goodness, and his patience, and his wisdom and the righteousness of of his law.

And then, of course, When he's put you on a particular lamp stand, for a particular part of the house, in which he is bringing salvation, It, glorifies your father. Your father has chosen. Where he put you. Particularly individually. To shine with the light of what he has made you in christ.

So, each of us have a uniquely assigned place. Of bringing glory to our father in heaven. Be what you are.

And so, that's That's the main point, isn't it? Of 5 13 through 14. Don't shrink From what he made you. Be what you made you. And don't shrink from where he puts you Be what he made you wear. He puts you. Amen. What support?

My father in heaven. How we thank you that you are perfect. And your word is perfect. And the work that your spirit is doing, As being perfectly done. We confess the lord, our preaching is imperfect. And our hearing is imperfect. But we look to you. Oh god to be glorified.

By adding the continuing blessing of your spirit's work in us, That you would glorify yourself. So we pray for the ongoing ministry of your spirit that each one of us. Would see. That you have made us. What we are in christ. And that you have selected for us. The place that we would bring glory to our father.

And we do pray o lord for any who have Heard. As those who are reading other people's mail or hearing other people's, Messages. Oh, lord. Grant that it would become theirs. By bringing them to to faith in jesus christ. For, we ask it all in his name. Amen.