

Providence Reformed Baptist Church - Sunday, March 14, 2021

Sermon Series: The Gospel of the Kingdom – Matthew

Message 27. Salt and Light – Matthew 5:13-16

Pastor Phillip M Way

Intro: This is a dark and decaying world in which we live. Is there anything we can do about it? We can be, we ARE, salt and light. MLJ Quote #1.

I. The Salt of the Earth – vs. 13

A. Qualities of Salt

1. Preservation – in daily life, Christians should exhibit qualities that halt the rate of decay
2. Flavoring (Savor) – if lost, useless – you can salt food, you cannot salt salt
3. Thirst (Dissatisfaction) – John 7:37-38

B. Qualities of the Earth

1. Dying/Decaying
2. Dull – pleasure-mania: people find life dull and boring and need entertainment and stimulation – they try to add flavor to life, to find meaning

II. The Light of the World – vs. 14-15

A. Qualities of Light

1. Removes the darkness of ignorance, sin, and sorrow
2. Exposes the cause of darkness
3. Reflects the glory of God through good works – John 8:12; 2 Cor. 4:6 – Christ is the Light, we are the Reflectors – a lamp/candle must be lit

B. Qualities of the World – John 3:19-21

1. Dark
2. “Enlightened” – when human philosophy and reason supplanted Scripture
3. Hiding from the Light and Hating it

III. Good Works and Glory – vs. 16

A. The Christian’s Function in the World

1. Do we affect those around us?
2. Example – unsavory speech

B. The Church’s Function in the World

1. Charitable Works – hospitals, orphanages, etc.
2. Societal Change – abolition of slavery, etc.

C. Evangelism, Gospel Preaching, and Awakenings

1. Shine the Light
2. Change the Moral Climate of the Community
3. Be Aware of the Pattern – creation/fall, fruitfulness/flood, etc.
4. Pronouncements of Denunciation – MLJ Quote #2

IV. Children of Light – Eph. 5:8-21 -

A. Find Out What Pleases God – vs. 8-14

1. Have no fellowship with unfruitful works of darkness
2. Expose sinful works

B. Walk in Wisdom – vs. 15-21

1. Redeem the Time
2. Understand God’s Will
3. Be Filled with the Spirit
4. Worship

C. This Walk Applies to Marriage, Family, Work (5:22-6:9)

V. Salt Does No Good on the Shelf and the Light Must Be Lit to Shine!

Quotes

MLJ Quote #1 - "It is indeed pathetic to read the prognostications of the thinkers (so-called), the philosophers and poets and leaders, towards the end of the last century. How sad to note that easy, confident optimism of theirs, the things they expected from the twentieth century, the golden era that was to come. The controlling idea was that the whole of life was advancing, developing and going upwards. Wars were going to be abolished, diseases were being cured, suffering was going to not only be ameliorated but finally eradicated. It was to be an amazing century. Most of the problems were going to be solved, for man had at last really begun to think. The masses, through education, would cease giving themselves to drink and immorality and vice. And as all the nations were thus educated to think and to hold conferences instead of rushing to war, the whole world was very soon going to be Paradise. That is not caricaturing the situation; it was believed confidently. If the Scriptural position is right, then the surprising thing is that the world is as good as it is now, because within its very own life and nature there is this tendency to putrefaction." – Martyn Lloyd-Jones, *Studies in the Sermon on the Mount*, pgs. 130-132

MLJ Quote #2 - "If the Christian church today spends most of her time in denouncing communism (or some other ism), it seems to me that the main result will be that communists will not be likely to listen to the preaching of the gospel. If the church is always denouncing one particular section of society, she is shutting the evangelistic door upon that section. It is my business as a preacher of the gospel, and a representative of the church, to evangelize all kinds and conditions and classes of men and women. Our business is to preach the gospel and bring this message of salvation to all." – MLJ, pg. 135

Cross References

John 7:37-38

37 On the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, “If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink. 38 He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.”

John 8:12

12 Then Jesus spoke to them again, saying, “I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life.”

2 Corinthians 4:6

6 For it is the God who commanded light to shine out of darkness, who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

John 3:19-21

19 And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. 20 For everyone practicing evil hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed. 21 But he who does the truth comes to the light, that his deeds may be clearly seen, that they have been done in God.”

Ephesians 5:8-21

8 For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light 9 (for the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness, righteousness, and truth), 10 finding out what is acceptable to the Lord. 11 And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather expose them. 12 For it is shameful even to speak of those things which are done by them in secret. 13 But all things that are exposed are made manifest by the light, for whatever makes manifest is light. 14 Therefore He says: “Awake, you who sleep, Arise from the dead, And Christ will give you light.” 15 See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, 16 redeeming the time, because the days are evil. 17 Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is. 18 And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit, 19 speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord, 20 giving thanks always for all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, 21 submitting to one another in the fear of God.