

What Is Our Role?

1. The Whole Creation Is Cursed and Trapped in a Death Spiral.

2. God Has Blessed the World with His People to Restrain Evil.

3. We Have Failed as Salt and Light and Need to Repent.

4. Let Us Humble Ourselves, Pray, and Turn from Wickedness.

CONCLUSION: Our community is diseased and trapped in sin and death that it cannot escape. It is our fault both for our participation in the sin that brought this death and our failure to share the living water we have been given. We must stop all the ways that we together as a congregation are refusing to obey God and turn to Christ by faith. Only Jesus can heal our community. Let us turn to Him together and confess our sin in humility. Let us faithfully serve Christ as the salt and light that He has called us to be here where He has placed us by His grace.

Matthew 5:13-16

“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. “You are *the light of the world*. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. 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. 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.

Ezra 10:1-14 (1-5 here included)

While Ezra prayed and made confession, weeping and casting himself down before the house of God, a very great assembly of men, women, and children, gathered to him out of Israel, for the people wept bitterly. ² And Shecaniah the son of Jehiel, of the sons of Elam, addressed Ezra: “We have broken faith with our God and have married foreign women from the peoples of the land, but even now there is hope for Israel in spite of this. ³ Therefore let us make a covenant with our God to put away all these wives and their children, according to the counsel of my lord and of those who tremble at the commandment of our God, and let it be done according to the Law. ⁴ Arise, for it is your task, and we are with you; be strong and do it.” ⁵ Then *Ezra arose and made the leading priests and Levites and all Israel take an oath that they would do as had been said. So they took the oath.*

Second Chronicles 7:11-22

¹¹ Thus *Solomon finished the house of the Lord* and the king’s house. All that Solomon had planned to do in the house of the Lord and in his own house he successfully accomplished. ¹² Then the Lord appeared to Solomon in the night and said to him: “*I have heard your prayer and have chosen this place for myself as a house of sacrifice.* ¹³ *When I shut up the heavens so that there is no rain, or command the locust to devour the land, or send pestilence among my people,* ¹⁴ *if my people who are called by my name humble themselves, and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land.* ¹⁵ Now my eyes will be open and my ears attentive to the prayer that is made in this place. ¹⁶ For now *I have chosen and consecrated this house that my name may be there forever.* My eyes and my heart will be there for all time. ¹⁷ And as for you, if you will walk before me as David your father walked, doing according to all that I have commanded you and keeping my statutes and my rules, ¹⁸ then I will establish your royal throne, as I covenanted with David your father, saying, ‘You shall not lack a man to rule Israel.’

¹⁹ “*But if you turn aside and forsake my statutes and my commandments that I have set before you, and go and serve other gods and worship them,* ²⁰ then I will pluck you up from my land that I have given you, and this house that I have consecrated for my name, I will cast out of my sight, and I will make it a proverb and a byword among all peoples. ²¹ And at this house, which was exalted, everyone passing by will be astonished and say, ‘Why has the Lord done thus to this land and to this house?’ ²² Then they will say, ‘Because they abandoned the Lord, the God of their fathers who brought them out of the land of Egypt, and laid hold on other gods and worshiped them and served them. Therefore he has brought all this disaster on them.’”