

Series: Sermon on the Mount

Lesson: #10

Title: Salt of the earth

Scripture: Matthew 5: 13

Date: 7-10-2009

Place: Sovereign Grace Baptist Church, Princeton, NJ

Proposal: In our text this morning, the Lord is giving assurance to his disciples—to his witnesses—to go forth and proclaim Christ. The assurance the Lord gives the believer, so that we go forth and boldly bear witness of him, is because of our union with Christ Jesus our Lord and Savior.

Matthew 5: 13: Ye are the salt of the earth:...

If you have been born of the Spirit of Christ ye are the salt of the earth. In scripture, salt represents concord-covenant; salt is an antiseptic; salt preserves (2 Chr 13: 5; Nu 18: 19.)

Ezekiel 16: 4: And *as for* thy nativity, in the day thou wast born thy navel was not cut, neither wast thou washed in water to supple *thee*; thou wast not salted at all, nor swaddled at all. 5: None eye pitied thee, to do any of these unto thee, to have compassion upon thee; but thou wast cast out in the open field, to the lothing of thy person, in the day that thou wast born...8: Now when I passed by thee, and looked upon thee, behold, thy time *was* the time of love; and I spread my skirt over thee, and covered thy nakedness: yea, I swear unto thee, and entered into a covenant with thee, saith the Lord GOD, and thou becamest mine.

In the law, the LORD calls it: the salt of the covenant of thy God. God wrote his everlasting covenant of salt on our hearts when Christ was formed in us. Through faith we find that God has bound himself to preserve us because all his free promises toward us are accomplished by Christ's one offering. As Christ is, so are we in this world—he spread his skirt of righteousness over us and covered our nakedness. We have been made the very savor of Christ Jesus before God because we dwell in Christ and Christ dwells in us—we are his. Nothing can ever again separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus. Ye are salt--saved from the corruption of sin, accepted in everlasting covenant bonds in Christ, and preserved in Christ.

Ye are the salt *of the earth*--the purpose of Christ's church in this earth is to set forth the truth of Christ Jesus our Lord. The church is the only preserving strength in this earth. Remove the Lord's people and this earth is nothing but corruption. Ye are the salt of the earth.

Then the Lord gives a word which we need to heed:

Matthew 5: 13:...but if the salt have lost his savour, wherewith shall it be salted? it is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men.

The Lord Jesus Christ had just said in verse 9: Blessed are the Peacemakers. The only peace that exists is the peace of God in Christ Jesus. Therefore those who make peace do so as earthen vessels, filled with Christ the Salt. But Christ the Salt--the gospel of Christ--stings the wounds of depraved sinners. Because the world does not rejoice in Christ, every one who bears witness of Christ will suffer persecution from this world—some worse than others—but all shall. The persecution which the believer endures is due to the enmity of those born of the flesh toward those born of the spirit. Flesh is flesh and spirit is spirit. These two are contrary the one to the other.

Persecution is not easy, we do not have sufficiency in ourselves to bear it--**but if the salt have lost his savour, wherewith shall it be salted? it is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men.**

Proposal: Our Lord Jesus Christ is reminding the believer that our sufficiency is of Christ. We must forsake all else and trust Christ alone.

- **Luke 14: 15-35.**
- **Hebrews 10: 21-39**

Our Savior is Christ the Salt. The believer is a Savor who has forsaken all else, who trusts Christ implicitly, who depends entirely upon him to use us in the midst of this earth. As you bear witness of Christ in your relations with those in the earth this is what we can be assured of: **2 Corinthians 2:14: Now thanks *be* unto God, which always causeth us to triumph in Christ, and maketh manifest the savour of his knowledge by us in every place. 15: For we are unto God a sweet savour of Christ, in them that are saved, and in them that perish: 16: To the one *we are* the savour of death unto death; and to the other the savour of life unto life. And who *is* sufficient for these things? 17: For we are not as many, which corrupt the word of God: but as of sincerity, but as of God, in the sight of God speak we in Christ...3: 4 And such trust have we through Christ to God-ward: 5: Not that we are sufficient of ourselves to think any thing as of ourselves; but our sufficiency *is* of God;**