



“POSITIVE INFLUENCE”

Series: “LIVING FROM THE INSIDE OUT”, Part 1 of 19

Sunday, July 2, 2023, at 9:00 & 11:00 AM

Text: Matthew 5:13-16

Big Idea: Being “salt” and “light,” as Christ-followers will cause people to think more of Jesus because of their acquaintance with us.

Matthew 5:13-16, “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. “You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden. 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. In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven.”

I. BEING SALT IN A MORALLY DECAYING CULTURE.

Genesis 6:6, “The LORD was grieved that he had made man on the earth, and his heart was filled with pain.”

John 3:16, “For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.”

1 Corinthians 1:18, “For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.”

2 Corinthians 2:15, “For we are to God the aroma of Christ among those who are being saved and those who are perishing.”

And then, one final example. Consider 2 Corinthians 4:3 ...

2 Corinthians 4:3, “And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing.” {NASV}

So, since Jesus said we are salt, what are we Christians supposed to do about that perishing process that is going on all around us? I suggest that there are three possible positions that Christians have taken for 2000 years, and still take today.

A. Stay away from the perishing world.

B. Become just like the perishing world.

C. Be a transformative agent in the world.

John 17:15, "My prayer is not that you take them out of the world but that you protect them from the evil one."

John 17:18, "As you sent me into the world, I have sent them into the world."

1. Corporately.

Luke 17:20-21, "Once, having been asked by the Pharisees when the kingdom of God would come, Jesus replied, "The kingdom of God does not come with your careful observation, nor will people say, 'Here it is,' or 'There it is,' because the kingdom of God is within you."

John 3:16, "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life."

Once again, eternal life is not a future thing. John 5:24 says ...

John 5:24, "I tell you the truth, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be condemned; he has crossed over from death to life."

John 12:47, "As for the person who hears my words but does not keep them, I do not judge him. For I did not come to judge the world, but to save it."

2. Individually.

II. BEING LIGHT IN A MORALLY DEPRAVED CULTURE.

John 9:5, "While I am in the world, I am the light of the world."

Matthew 5:14, 16 “You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden. In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven.”

Ephesians 5:8, “For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light.”