

Lesson Notes:

## **What it means to be the Salt of the Earth and Light of the World**

In **Matthew 5:12 – 14** Jesus tells us that we are the salt of the earth and the light of the world. But what does it mean to be the salt and light of the world? Below is a discussion of what it means to be the salt and light of the world..

### **Scriptural Principles**

- 1) **Salt prevents decay.** – For centuries salt has been used as a preservative to prevent the deterioration of foods and meats. As followers of Christ we can prevent the destruction of souls and the decay of society by witnessing and presenting our lives as a living sacrifice (**Romans 12:1**) for our Lord and Savior. Jesus expects us to stand up against sin, immorality and the exploitation of the unborn, the weak and the elderly. He commands us to take care of orphans and widows (**James 1:27**).
- 2) **Salt and flavor.** – Salt has been used as a flavor enhancer for centuries. As followers of Christ we can influence others in the direction of Christ by the way we lived. William Wilberforce was a crippled up man barely 5 feet tall he single handedly led the emancipation effort in Great Britain. Wilberforce University is named after this humble servant of God.
- 3) **Salt Lamps** – Salt Lamps have been used for centuries. They work by emitting negatively charged ions which purify the air of bacteria and other impurities. Jesus expects us to live in a manner which eliminates sin and impurities in our lives and the lives of others.
- 4) **Salt licks** – Salt licks have been used since ancient times to lure game. As the salt of the earth we can attract others to a life style free from sin and committed to our Lord Jesus Christ. By loving God with all our minds, heart and souls (**Matthew 22:37**) others see the peace we have in our lives and we can attract others to the Christian life.
- 5) **We are the Light of the World** – In **Matthew 5:14** Jesus tells us that we are the light of the world. When we live our lives in accordance with God's will we provide light to the rest of the world to the way of Jesus Christ..
- 6) **How do we respond as believers?** – By loving Christ with all our hearts, minds and souls (**Matthew 22:37**). Paul tells us in **Romans 12:1-3** that we should present ourselves to God as our reasonable service for the debt he paid in our place.

**Finally, are you living like you are the salt of the earth and the light of the world?**