

YOUR STRATEGIC INFLUENCE IN THE WORLD

I. The Scripture: Salt and Light

13"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.

14"You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden. 15Neither 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. 16 In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father .in heaven."

Matthew 5:13-16

II. Looking at Scripture

Adding Flavor and Sight to the World

In this passage, what two images does Jesus use to describe His disciples?

Before refrigeration, salt was used to keep meat from rotting. With this in mind, what do you think Jesus meant when He said, "You are the salt of the earth"?

What might cause Christians to lose their saltiness? How can a Christian be a "light of the world"?

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Read Philippians 2:14,15. What does Paul advise Christians to do in order to be lights in the world?

Why do you think "light" is such a common reference to Christ and faith in Him?

III. The Scripture and You

1. The Christian Taste Test

Circle the appropriate answer:

If I am salt, my relationship with Christ is...

blah tasteless mild seasoned spicy very tasty

Complete the following sentence:

To add more "salt" to my Christian diet, I need to . . .

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2. Shining your light for Jesus

Circle the response that best describes you.

When it comes to shining for Christ, I . . .

- a. shine brightly.
- b. flicker now and then.
- c. feel dark and cold.
- d. need a new spark.
- e. burn hotter every day.
- f. shed light for God's glory.
- g. need a few other candles for help.

If Jesus came to you today and said, "I need you. You are my only light to your family, your friends and your school. Will you shine for me?" What would you say and do?

3. Who Are You Influencing?

Billy Graham was the most well known evangelist in the 20th Century. He once - said, "The evangelistic harvest is always urgent. The destiny of men and nations is always being decided. Every generation is strategic. God will hold us responsible as to how well we fulfill our responsibilities to this age and take advantage of our responsibilities."¹

¹. Billy Graham, Quote, Unquote (Wheaton: Victor Books, 1977), p. 102.

How do you feel when you hear that you are strategic for reaching your generation for God?

What can you do to fulfill your God-given responsibilities?

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