

Why Christians Matter

Matthew 5:13-16

Introduction

As we come to the end of a very powerful sermon series on “Second,” we have learned the importance of loving others and demonstrating that love in practical ways in our everyday lives. Our presence in the world should make a noticeable difference to the people around us. Jesus used the concepts of salt and light to teach us the impact and effect we should have in the world as followers of Christ.

First, the Word tells us that we are the salt of the earth (Matthew 5:13). Salt had two purposes in the Middle East during the first century. Because of the lack of refrigeration, salt was used to preserve food, especially meat, which would quickly spoil in the desert environment. Believers in Christ are preservatives to the world, preserving it from the evil inherent in a society corrupted by sin. Second, salt was used then, as now, as a flavor enhancer and can lead to an increased thirst in those who use it. In the same way that salt enhances the flavor of food, the followers of Christ should enhance the flavor of life in this world, creating a thirst in others for a relationship with Christ. Thus, the Christian’s role in society is to preserve and to create thirst.

As light eradicates darkness, our “good works” should shine so brightly, exposing the light of God’s reality in a dark world. Followers of Christ should brighten up the world by spreading God’s truth, which shines light on the darkened hearts of sinful man and by doing “good works” that are evident for all to see.

We are to be the “salt of the earth” and the “light of the world” through our good works—all to the glory of God and the benefit of society. As Christians, our everyday lives should reflect a relationship with Christ that wells up in good works for everyone to see and glorify our Father.

Getting Started

1. Which part of the “Second” sermon series has resonated with you the most?
2. Explain the importance of Christians being salt and light in our world.

Let’s Get Personal

1. Do you see why it is important that the church is involved in the community and good works? Share your thoughts with your group.
2. What good works can you see active in your life?
3. Are you connecting God to the good works that you do?

Take the Next Step

1. How have you been convicted during the “Second” sermon series?
2. What will you do differently as a result of what you learned?
3. If you want to go deeper, look at Jeremiah 11:4-7 and Genesis 18:23-33

Renew Your Mind

“...let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.” Matt. 5:16