

LINCOLN COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH
SERMON OUTLINE
October 13th, 2019

Matthew 5:13-16

RECAP: Last week we concluded the Beatitudes, this section in which Christ describes the progressive life of a man changed by the Gospel. If we're going to be faithful Christians, we're going to experience persecution, just for living like Christians in this world.

EXEGESIS:

- The very first words are “**you are.**” This is not Christ saying we will eventually become light and salt. He is saying; we are **now** salt, and we are currently **light**.
- **SALT** had several uses throughout ancient times. Flavor (**2nd Cor. 2:15-16**); antiseptic, preservative. Preservative makes most sense here, in light of ancient uses and context.
- The warning: The most wooden translation of this passage would be, “*If the salt is bland/dull/useless, what shall it make salty?*”
- **J. MacArthur:** This passage is about influence. Though it may not seem like it, that influence is to keep the world from extreme sin, depravity, corruption, and ultimately destruction.
- So what would contribute to believers losing this kind of salty quality? What would keep believers from preserving the world, inasmuch as they are able? **Purity**.
- **LIGHT:** Christ states this as a warning! Light is useless unless it is used to see! Light that is hidden from view, or otherwise constrained, is worthless! Just as an elevated city can't be hidden, lights are not meant to be hidden!
- **Methodology:** Christians cannot change the world around them, without the direct power of the Gospel changing hearts and minds for Christ. Everything else is a secondary distraction.

APPLICATION: It is our task to be:

1. Salt: To preserve this world from extreme sin and destruction, by influencing it with the Gospel.
2. Light: To shine and example the Gospel and Christ's character, so others will praise Him.