

**Being Salt and Light**  
Mark 9 of Evangelical Christianity – Part I  
Matthew 5:13-16  
9/3/17  
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**Evangelical Christians believe we have a personal responsibility to share my religious beliefs about Christ with non-Christians.**

**I. God expects us to be salt in our world. (v. 13a)**

Season all your grain offerings with salt. Do not leave the salt of the covenant of your God out of your grain offerings; add salt to all your offerings. (Leviticus 2:13)

Don't you know that the Lord, the God of Israel, has given the kingship of Israel to David and his descendants forever by a covenant of salt? (2 Chronicles 13:5)

**a. Salt enhances flavor.**

Is tasteless food eaten without salt...? (Job 6:6a)

But thanks be to God, who always leads us as captives in Christ's triumphal procession and uses us to spread the aroma of the knowledge of him everywhere. For we are to God the pleasing aroma of Christ among those who are being saved and those who are perishing. To the one we are an aroma that brings death; to the other, an aroma that brings life. (2 Corinthians 2:14-16)

Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful. And pray for us, too, that God may open a door for our message, so that we may proclaim the mystery of Christ, for which I am in chains. Pray that I may proclaim it clearly, as I should. Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders; make the most of every opportunity. Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone. (Colossians 4:2-6)

The Lord's message rang out from you not only in Macedonia and Achaia—your faith in God has become known everywhere. (1 Thessalonians 1:8)

**b. Salt inhibits decay.**

Therefore, as tongues of fire lick up straw and as dry grass sinks down in the flames, so their roots will decay and their flowers blow away like dust; for they

have rejected the law of the Lord Almighty and spurned the word of the Holy One of Israel. (Isaiah 5:24)

For the creation was subjected to frustration, not by its own choice, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the freedom and glory of the children of God. (Romans 8:20-21)

““Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven.” (Matthew 7:21)

In fact, everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted, while evildoers and impostors will go from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived. But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have become convinced of, because you know those from whom you learned it, and how from infancy you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work. (2 Timothy 3:12-17)

Turn my eyes away from worthless things; preserve my life according to your word. (Psalms 119:37)

### c. Salt increases thirst

“The days are coming,” declares the Sovereign Lord,  
“when I will send a famine through the land—  
not a famine of food or a thirst for water,  
but a famine of hearing the words of the Lord. (Amos 8:11)

Then Jesus declared, “I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never go hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty. (John 6:35)

for he satisfies the thirsty  
and fills the hungry with good things. (Psalms 107:9)

“Come, all you who are thirsty,  
come to the waters;  
and you who have no money,  
come, buy and eat!  
Come, buy wine and milk  
without money and without cost.

Why spend money on what is not bread,  
and your labor on what does not satisfy?  
Listen, listen to me, and eat what is good,  
and you will delight in the richest of fare.  
Give ear and come to me;  
listen, that you may live.  
I will make an everlasting covenant with you,  
my faithful love promised to David.  
See, I have made him a witness to the peoples,  
a ruler and commander of the peoples.  
Surely you will summon nations you know not,  
and nations you do not know will come running to you,  
because of the Lord your God,  
the Holy One of Israel,  
for he has endowed you with splendor.”

Seek the Lord while he may be found;  
call on him while he is near.  
Let the wicked forsake their ways  
and the unrighteous their thoughts.  
Let them turn to the Lord, and he will have mercy on them,  
and to our God, for he will freely pardon. (Isaiah 55:1-7)

On the last and greatest day of the festival, Jesus stood and said in a loud voice,  
“Let anyone who is thirsty come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as  
Scripture has said, rivers of living water will flow from within them.” (John 7:37-38)

The Spirit and the bride say, “Come!” And let the one who hears say, “Come!” Let  
the one who is thirsty come; and let the one who wishes take the free gift of the  
water of life. (Revelation 22:17)

d. **Salt must be salty.** (v. 13b)

In that day Abimelek pressed his attack against the city until he had captured it and  
killed its people. Then he destroyed the city and scattered salt over it. (Judges 9:45)

He turned rivers into a desert,  
flowing springs into thirsty ground,  
and fruitful land into a salt waste,  
because of the wickedness of those who lived there. (Psalms 107: 33-34)

Put salt on Moab, for she will be laid waste; her towns will become desolate, with no one to live in them. (Jeremiah 48:9)

## II. **God expects us to be light to our world.** (v. 14)

### a. **Light dispels darkness.**

See, darkness covers the earth and thick darkness is over the peoples, but the Lord rises upon you and his glory appears over you. (Isaiah 60:2)

The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned. (Isaiah 9:2)

I will lead the blind by ways they have not known, along unfamiliar paths I will guide them; I will turn the darkness into light before them and make the rough places smooth. These are the things I will do; I will not forsake them. (Isaiah 42:16)

The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. (John 1:5)

### b. **Light is a metaphor for truth.**

For God, who said, “Let light shine out of darkness,” made his light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of God’s glory displayed in the face of Christ. (2 Corinthians 4:6)

Woe to those who call evil good and good evil, who put darkness for light and light for darkness, who put bitter for sweet and sweet for bitter. (Isaiah 5:20)

For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light (for the fruit of the light consists in all goodness, righteousness and truth) and find out what pleases the Lord. Have nothing to do with the fruitless deeds of darkness, but rather expose them. It is shameful even to mention what the disobedient do in secret. But everything exposed by the light becomes visible—and everything that is illuminated becomes a light. This is why it is said:

“Wake up, sleeper,  
rise from the dead,  
and Christ will shine on you.”

Be very careful, then, how you live—not as unwise but as wise, making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil. (Ephesians 5:8-16)

But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His wonderful light. (1 Peter 2:9)

**c. Light is a metaphor for salvation.**

In that day the deaf will hear the words of the scroll, and out of gloom and darkness the eyes of the blind will see. (Isaiah 29:18)

“I, the Lord, have called you in righteousness;  
I will take hold of your hand.  
I will keep you and will make you  
to be a covenant for the people  
and a light for the Gentiles,  
to open eyes that are blind,  
to free captives from prison  
and to release from the dungeon those who sit in darkness. (Isaiah 42:6-7)

And you, my child, will be called a prophet of the Most High;  
for you will go on before the Lord to prepare the way for him,  
to give his people the knowledge of salvation  
through the forgiveness of their sins,  
because of the tender mercy of our God,  
by which the rising sun will come to us from heaven  
to shine on those living in darkness  
and in the shadow of death,  
to guide our feet into the path of peace.” (Luke 1:76-79)

I have come into the world as a light, so that no one who believes in me should stay in darkness. (John 12:46)

When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.” (John 8:12)

John was a lamp that burned and gave light... (John 5:35)

I am sending you to them to open their eyes and turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God, so that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in me.’ (Acts 26:17b-18)

**d. Light must be visible.**

But for you who revere my name, the sun of righteousness will rise with healing in its rays. And you will go out and frolic like well-fed calves released from the stall. (Malachi 4:2)

Those who are wise will shine like the brightness of the heavens, and those who lead many to righteousness, like the stars for ever and ever. (Daniel 12:3)

All who were sitting in the Sanhedrin looked intently at Stephen, and they saw that his face was like the face of an angel. (Acts 6:35)

Do everything without grumbling or arguing, so that you may become blameless and pure, “children of God without fault in a warped and crooked generation.” Then you will shine among them like stars in the sky as you hold firmly to the word of life. And then I will be able to boast on the day of Christ that I did not run or labor in vain. (Philippians 2:14-16)

When they saw the courage of Peter and John and realized that they were unschooled, ordinary men, they were astonished and they took note that these men had been with Jesus. (Acts 4:13)

### **III. Fulfilling God’s expectations will cause others to exalt Him. (v. 16)**

And we all, who with unveiled faces reflect the Lord’s glory, are being transformed into his image with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit. (2 Corinthians 3:18)

This is to my Father’s glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples. (John 15:8)

Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day he visits us. (1 Peter 2:12)