



# **NEW LIFE**

## **BIBLE-PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

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*"For the Word of God and for the testimony of Jesus Christ" (Rev 1:9)*

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**LORD'S DAY 15 JUN 2008**

## **THE USEFULNESS OF SALT**

### **Introduction**

"Salt is good" is a fascinating familiar truth. In the other gospel account, our Lord Jesus remarked that "Ye are the salt of the earth" (Matt 5: 13). This remark came immediately after defining the character of Christians in the Beatitudes. The Lord Jesus was stressing on the primacy of preservation Christian influence amidst a perverse generation. This is no less true for us, who live in an era of progressively decaying morality and declining spirituality.

### **The Emphasis**

Few points are worthy of note. What does the salt of earth do and who is the salt of the earth and what if it has lost its saltiness?

### **Who is the Salt of the Earth?**

In an unambiguous manner, our Lord indicated "Ye are the salt of the earth". It came on the heels of the famous Beatitudes in Matthew 5. Who are the "ye"? They are the poor in spirit, the contrite, the meek, those who hunger and thirst after righteousness, the merciful, the pure in heart, the peacemaker and those who are persecuted, reviled and slandered for righteousness sake. It must lead on to tremble at the thought of its responsibilities and the even more fearsome, the thought of our indictment when we fail!

### **What does the salt of the earth do?**

#### **1. Preservation**

Salt is a preservative. It is used to preserve meat, fish and vegetables. In the days of Jesus, blocks of salt from the Dead Sea were cut out for the purpose of preserving food. The salt, to be of any value, must be sprinkled and rubbed into the meat. It will remain ineffective if it remained shelved or kept in the salt shaker. By the same token, Christians will be ineffective if they totally disengage themselves from their homes, their places of work and the politics of the nation. In all these stations of life we are first Christian and then the professionals of our...

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expertise. As Christians, we need to remind ourselves of the words of our Lord before His ascension: "It is not for you to know the times or seasons...But ye shall receive power, after that Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth." (Acts 1: 7-8) Our times are in the sovereign control of our Father in Heaven but the privilege is ours to be the salt of the earth, bearing witness, as we are empowered by the Spirit, to Jesus Christ, our Lord to save souls while there is yet opportunity

## **2. Flavour**

When asked to define salt, a child gave this prompt answer: "It is what makes food taste bad when you leave it out". In short, salt adds **flavour** to food. Without it, food is bland and sometimes tasteless especially when it lost its saltiness.

As salt of the earth, we are to inject zest into life. We have the joy of the Lord because we have Jesus. The closer we are to Jesus, the happier we are. Joy overflows when nothing comes between us and Jesus. As Christians, it is our bounden duty to reflect radiance and joy in our daily interaction with the people around us. We must be infectiously happy. Did not our Lord remind us in John 13:17 - "If ye know these things, happy are ye if ye did them" and again in John 10: 10 - "I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly." Far be it that we should be a morose and depressed people, totally destitute of zest of life. Yet, sad to say this is often not the case. In fact, often times the converse is true. Our non-believing friends seem to be the joyful ones! Even worse is when the church leader put on the facial melancholy of an undertaker! It was this observation that led Oliver Wendell Holmes to quip, "I might have entered the ministry if certain church leader I knew had not looked and acted so much like undertakers."

Remember we are living epistles to be known and read of men. We bear within us the Spirit of the living God. Thus empowered, let us lift up Christ, that others may see Jesus in us. Let us be good and faithful testimonies by our edifying example to others.

## **3. Thirst**

Salt increases the osmotic load of the body and make us thirsty. We should be like salt to the non-believing world .The carnal things offered by this world are ephemeral. The thirst of these worldlings is only temporarily quenched by the wells of the world and they thirst again. On the other hand, the water offered by Jesus is the living water that spring up into eternal life. No one drinking His water will ever thirst again. Did not our Lord Jesus, on one occasion, during the Feast of Tabernacles, declared to all who would hear - "If any man thirst, let him come unto me and drink. He that believeth on me...out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water." (John 7: 37 to 38)

Our role as salt of the earth is, by our speech, conduct and living, to create a...

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thirst in others for Jesus and for the word of God. Let us draw men and women to the fountain, whose refreshing streams of living water will make them thirst no more.

### **Why Chose to Illustrate with Salt?**

The modus operandi of God has always been to choose the foolish things in the world to confound the wise; the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty; and the base things of the world to bring to nought the things that are. For the same reason, God has not chosen gold or silver but rather, the inexpensive and ubiquitous common substance, the salt, to illustrate the power of its influence. Let us drop all ambitions, ourselves and worldly centred agenda without the holy sanction of God. Rather, let us be content to be the unseen stewards that His strength may be made perfect in our weakness. If we should be hesitant, then let us draw our inspiration from the spiritual luminaries who have gone before us. God used the insignificant burning bush to reveal Himself to Moses and to prepare him to be the deliverer of Israel from the tyranny of Pharaoh. It was also the same God, who used a youthful shepherd boy, David to do battle with the giant, Goliath and hence, deliver Israel from the taunt of the Philistines. God can do the same for us, even though we may be feeble and few. Remember it is not by might nor by power but by His Spirit and let us serve Him stedfastly with perseverance and in the fear of God. Only believe that God can use you as salt to change the world.

*Eld YC Lim  
Evangel BP Church, Malaysia  
(adapted from Maranatha Messenger dated 08 June 2008)*

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Family Worship at Sis Sonia's Place on 11th June 2008

**WELCOME TO NEW LIFE B-P CHURCH LONDON**  
**CHURCH THEME: WORK OUT YOUR OWN SALVATION WITH FEAR**  
**AND TREMBLING. (Philippians 2:12)**

Our worship services begin promptly at **11.00 am and 4.00 pm.**

Please stay back for Bible Study and fellowship lunch after the morning worship and for tea after the evening service. Do invite your friends to come to Church.

Worship Services			WELCOME	
<b>Morning</b>	<i>Today: 15/06/2008</i>	<i>Next Week: 22/06/2008</i>	We extend a warm welcome to all worshippers this Lord's Day.	
<i>Chairman:</i>	Pr Mok Chee Cheong	John Poh		
<i>Preacher:</i>	Pr Mark Chen	Pr Mok Chee Cheong		
<i>Message:</i>	Seeking the Things of Christ, Not of Self	No Confidence in the Flesh!	NEWS/ANNOUNCEMENTS	
<i>Text:</i>	Philippians 2:19-30	Philippians 3:1-6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>12<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Thanksgiving Service:</b> There will be a carry-in lunch on 22nd June 2008. Those who would like to contribute, please inform Daniel Poh. For those who would like to help in cleaning the church in preparation for the Service, please come to church on 21st June 2008 (Saturday) at 10.30am.</li> <li>• <b>School of Theology at Metropolitan Tabernacle:</b> The theme for this year programme is "Stand Fast in the Faith". It will be held from 8th – 10th Jul 2008. For further details, please help yourself to the application form available at the Book Table.</li> <li>• <b>Family Worship:</b> For those who would like to open up their homes for family worship, please contact Pr Mok.</li> <li>• <b>Book Table:</b> Please feel free to browse the book table for materials that are of interest to you, especially some new books that have just been displayed. Please note that materials without price tags are free.</li> <li>• <b>Sabbath School:</b> Leaflets are placed on the book table to encourage children of ages 6-12 to attend Sunday School. Please feel free to distribute those leaflets to any child, especially yours, who may be interested in joining in. Please note that class will be held at the Library after the morning worship service.</li> </ul>	
<i>Organist:</i>	Anthony	Anthony		
<b>Evening</b>				
<i>Chairman:</i>	John Poh	Jonathan Kim		
<i>Preacher:</i>	Pr Mark Chen	Pr Mok Chee Cheong		
<i>Message:</i>	A Biblical Attitude Toward Wealth	Why the Rod is Righteous		
<i>Text:</i>	Proverbs 19:22; 22:1	Proverbs 13:24; 23:13		
<i>Pianist:</i>	Hubert	Joy		
Other Duties				
	<i>Today: 15/06/2008</i>	<i>Next Week: 22/06/2008</i>		
<i>Ushers</i>	Daniel / Evelyn	Jonathan / Sharon		
<i>Sunday Sch:</i>	Hui Min	Esmeralda		
<i>Lunch:</i>	Maureen	Carry-In Lunch		
<i>Washing-up:</i>	Volunteers	Volunteers		
<i>Bible Study:</i>	Catechism Class	Catechism Class		
Appointments of the Week				
Fri 20 Jun	7:30pm	<b>Young Adults Fellowship:</b> Led by Pr Mark Chen		
Sat 21 Jun	4.00pm	<b>Prayer Meeting &amp; Bible Study:</b> Led by Pr Mark Chen		
Last Week's Worship Service Collections				
<b>Offering:</b> £223.60		<b>Lunch:</b> £40.20		
<h2 style="margin: 0;"><u>Memory Verse</u></h2>				
<i>Last Week (June 08 Wk 2): Psalm 139:6</i>				
Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is high, I cannot attain unto it.				
<i>This Week (June 08 Wk 3): Psalm 139:7</i>				
Whither shall I go from thy spirit? or whither shall I flee from thy presence?				