

SALT & LIGHT

Post pandemic trauma, the current Administration and the Left; false news; Black Lives Matter; the Critical Race Theory; the First Amendment and censorship by “big tech”; the saturation of LGBTQ into main stream life; mandated shut downs and vaccination; the homeless (a mental health and addiction problem); the abortion issue; genetic research (tampering with things far beyond our ability to understand); artificial intelligence; the new space race and extraterrestrial issues; can take a toll on believers and non believers.

Political, social and spiritual unrest is not new. Many of these issues, and much more, have been a part of every nation’s history. However, we may be coming closer than ever to what the Bible calls the end time. Scriptures such Matthew 24; 2 Corinthians 4:3-4; 1 Timothy 4:1-2; 2 Timothy 3:1-9; and many more, are definitely eye opening and relevant!

What should the position of the Church be? How much do we accept as possibly God’s doing and when are we to take a solid stance against the issues? One thing is for sure, God holds us responsible for those under our care to teach them the Truth, even if it presents a very different viewpoint than that of the world. **Here are some thoughts...**

1. **Salt and light** (Matthew 5:13-16; Luke 14:34-35) -- The Church has been called by Christ to be salt and light, two very different characteristics. This is not necessarily *saying or doing* anything but simply *being* something. Salt affects its environment simply by being what it is, salt. The same holds true for light. God’s Word this is telling us to be totally different from our environment.
2. Although salt is used to enhance flavoring, **Israel used salt from the Dead Sea in two major ways:**
 - Salt was mixed with the dirt to enhance plant growth because it was high in potash. The other thing it was used for was to disinfect human waste.
 - Luke says that we are the salt of the earth (literally soil). In other words, salt was used to help good things grow and to prevent bad things from spreading. And a large amount was needed for both.
 - Luke 14:34-35 -- Although salt cannot become less salty, it can be diluted when it is mixed with other substances. Sellers would scrape sand into the salt pile and sell it for the same price as pure salt. Stay pure! (Matthew 5:8)

3. Salt cannot remain in the container and be effective. Salt has to be in contact with the soil to do any good. As believers, we must be in direct contact with our society. And it needs to be in large amounts, a sprinkling will not do.
 - If the church (building) is the only place we exhibit our love for God we remain in the container.
4. Being the light of the world is one of the greatest compliments Jesus ever paid a follower. By calling us “light” He commands the Christian to be what He was, the “Light of the world” (John 9:5)
5. Light is meant to be seen... Christianity is meant to be seen in the world. Jesus did not say, “You are the Light of the Church.” Christianity must be seen outside the walls of the church.
 - A light is a guide as the headlights of an automobile. A light is also a warning light as a lighthouse. (Psalm 119:105)
 - Working faithfully alongside non-Christians, Prayer and worship outside the walls of the church building, etc. are a few ways we can take our Christianity outside the “shaker.”
 - Use social media not to be *against* something but to be *unashamedly for Someone*. (Psalm 33:1)

The Bible tells to stay awake, to stand firm, to be ready and “occupy until He comes.” (Luke 19:13; 1 Corinthians 16:13-14; 2 Peter 3:10-13)

Pastor Jack

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