

Salt, Light, Persecution & Praise *matthew 5:11-16*

11“Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. **12**Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

13“You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled underfoot.

14“You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. **15**Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. **16**In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.”

Who was Jesus' primary audience for this sermon? _____

Notice Jesus does not say “if” but _____ people insult you.

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“All who live godly lives in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution.” 2 Timothy 3:12

We are blessed when we are persecuted for HIM not for US.

Persecution of Jesus and the prophets before him should remind us it is part of following Him.

(Jeremiah 20 & Daniel)

However...Some will see our good deeds and praise our Father in heaven!

Jesus says we _____ the salt of the earth, not we “should” be.

In Jesus' time salt was both a _____ & a _____.

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Jesus says we _____ the light of the world,
not we “should” be.

The 4 “Servant Songs”, or Messianic
prophecies of Isaiah can be found in
Isaiah 42, 49, 50, 52-53.

“This is the verdict: Light has come into the
world, but people loved darkness instead of
light because their deeds were evil. Everyone
who does evil hates the light, and will not come
into the light for fear that their deeds will be
exposed.” John 3:19

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The 5 offerings observed by the people of God
at the Tabernacle were:

- 1.Sin offering - mandatory
- 2.Trespass offering - mandatory
- 3.Burnt offering - voluntary
- 4.Grain offering - voluntary
5. Peace offering - voluntary

Forgiveness of sin is found only in the sin
offering of which Jesus has completed. In
response to this, the offering of our lives to God
is our act of worship. Hebrews 10:10 & Romans 12:1

“God assumed from the beginning that the wise of
the world would view Christians as fools...and he
has not been disappointed. Devout Christians are
destined to be regarded as fools in modern society.
We are fools for Christ’s sake. We must pray for
courage to endure the scorn of the sophisticated
world. If I have brought any message today, it is
this: Have the courage to have your wisdom
regarded as stupidity. Be fools for Christ. And
have the courage to suffer the contempt of the
sophisticated world.”

Antonin Scalia 1936-2016

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