

April 6, 2025

Being Salt & Light

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1 Peter 3:13-22

Jesus gave us these commands in His sermon in **Matthew 5:13**, *“You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything except to be thrown out and trampled under people’s feet.”* From Jesus’ sermon, we learn that believers are not to live passively in culture, but to seek to influence it. As salt, we are to permeate and influence society. John Stott said at the Cape Town Lausanne Conference, *“The greatest hindrance to the advance of the gospel worldwide is the failure of the lives of God’s people.”* An anonymous author adds, *“The reason some folks don’t believe in missions is that the brand of religion they have isn’t worth propagating.”*¹

I. Do Good (1 Peter 3:13)

- A. The example of Jesus, **Acts 10:38**, *He went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him.*

II. Endure for Good (1 Peter 13, 17)

- A. But even if there is no certainty that we will suffer, there is always the possibility.
 - 1. **1 Peter 5:10**, *And after you have suffered a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you.*
 - 2. **James 1:2–4**, *Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, 3 for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. 4 And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.*
- B. The Example of Mary – “Blessed” is not a reference to general happiness but divine favor and privilege.
 - 1. **Luke 1:42**, *And she exclaimed with a loud cry, “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb!”*
 - 2. **Luke 2:34–35**, *And Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, “Behold, this child is appointed for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign that is opposed 35 (and a sword will pierce through your own soul also), so that thoughts from many hearts may be revealed.”*

III. Devote Yourself to Who is Good (1 Peter 3:15a)

- A. **1 Peter 3:15**, *But in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy,*
 - 1. *“Honor...as holy”* – this is an affirmation of our submission to the One who is Holy and like no other!
 - a) Position of Worship
 - b) Position of Obedience
 - 2. Honoring the Lord in this manner is not external, but in the heart.
- B. Submission to & the honoring of the Lord will lead to a life of influence and proclamation (Salt & Light)

IV. Defend the Good (1 Peter 3:15b)

- A. Defend (apologia/defense – **Acts 25:16; 2 Tim 4:16; Philippians 4:16**) the hope (the Gospel).
- B. The two pillars of our faith (Two options, **1 John 2:14** or **Ephesians 4:14-15**)
 - 1. God as Creator of all things
 - 2. The resurrection of Jesus Christ

V. Maintain the Good (1 Peter 3:16)

- A. Conscience is the divinely placed internal mechanism that either excuses or accuses a person. It either convicts or affirms our behavior.
- B. A good conscience is what every believer must keep (maintain) (**Job 27:6; Romans 14:22; 1 Tim 3:9**)

VI. Rejoice in Good (1 Peter 3:18-22)

- A. The Atonement is a one-time, all-sufficient act the Son of God to bring believers to God (18).
- B. The Proclamation of victory over the enemies of God to the spirits in prison (19)
 - 1. The Audience (20)
 - 2. The Union (21) there is one “baptism,” it is a believer’s union with Christ (**Eph 4:5**)
 - 3. The Supremacy (22)

¹ Akin, Danny. *Exalting Jesus in the Sermon on the Mount*. Nashville, TN: Holman Bible Publishers, 2019.