

# Salt, Light and the Sovereignty of God

Ps Andrew Cavanagh – Sunday 19 May 2019

1

Salt & light

*You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt has become tasteless, how will it be made salty again? It is good for nothing anymore, except to be thrown out and trampled under foot by men. You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do men light a lamp, and put it under the peck-measure, but on the lampstand; and it gives light to all who are in the house. Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven.*

**Matthew 5:13-16 (NASB)**

2

## Before the salt & light

*Blessed are those who have been persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you when men cast insults at you, and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely, on account of Me. Rejoice, and be glad, for your reward in heaven is great, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.*

**Matthew 5:10-12 (NASB)**

***Being salt and light  
is a connected with  
unjustified persecution and accusation***

3

## Salt & light

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**Matthew 5:13-16 (NASB)**

4

## Consequences of being salt & light

- Needs to remain salty
- Impacts those with whom they come in contact
- Cannot be hidden
- Illuminates all around them
- Shouldn't be hidden
- Demonstrates our good works
- Brings glory to God
- Persecution/accusation will come as a result!



5

## The alternative?

They will be  
**'trampled underfoot by men'**

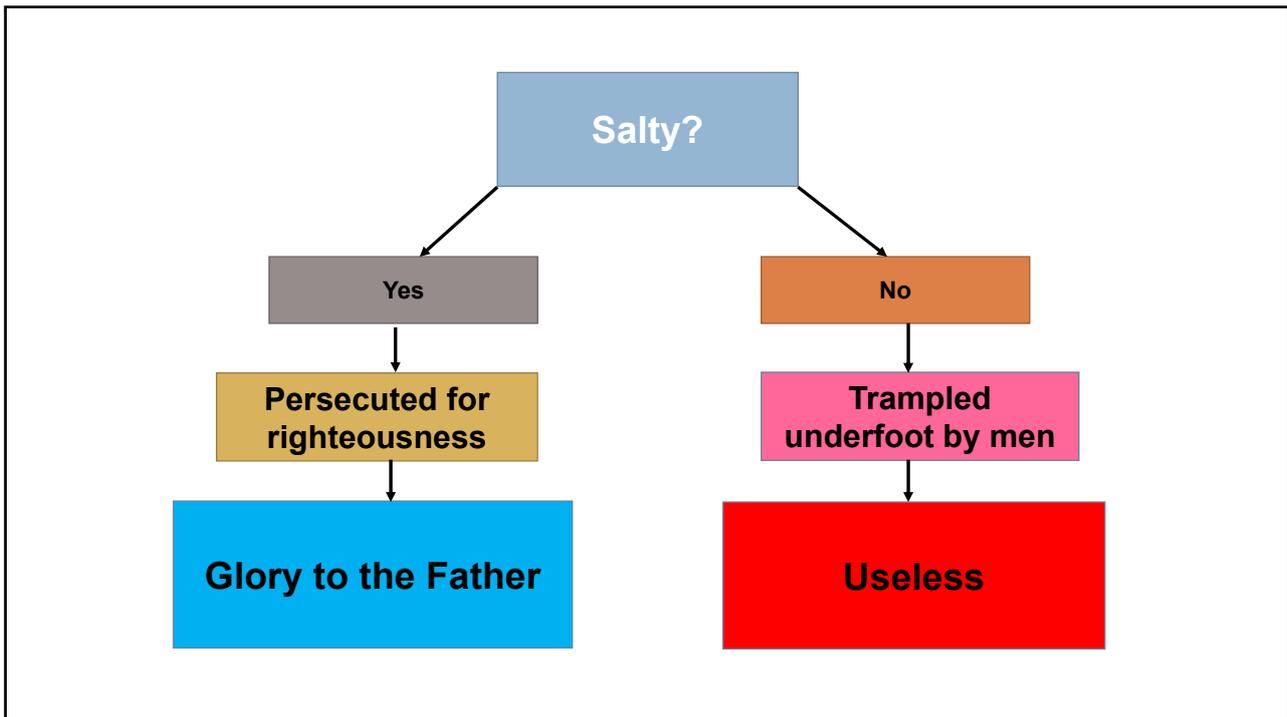
Greek καταπατεῖ (katapateo)

Matthew 7:6  
- pearls before swine

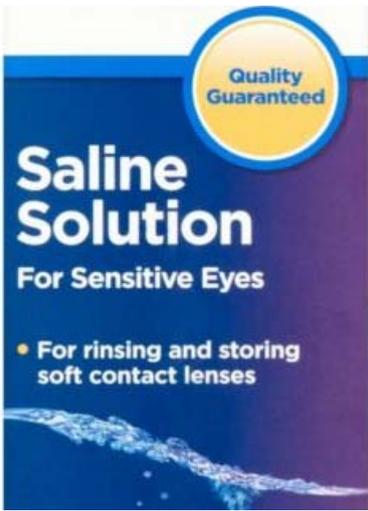
Luke 8:5, 12:1  
seed on the path,  
crowds stepping on each other

Hebrews 10:29  
- rejecting the gospel

6



7



## The solution

- Once unsalty it cannot be made salty again
- Used on paths
- Mixed in with manure

**The key**  
Don't allow yourself to become unsalty

**TRUST GOD**

8

## Rejoice in suffering

*In this you greatly rejoice, though now **for a little while you may have had to suffer grief** in all kinds of trials. These have come so that your faith - of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire - may be proved genuine and may **result in praise, glory and honor** when Jesus Christ is revealed.*

**1 Peter 1:6 & 7 (NIV 84)**

*And the God of all grace, who **called you to his eternal glory** in Christ, **after you have suffered a little while**, will himself **restore you** and make you **strong, firm and steadfast**. To him be the power for ever and ever. Amen.*

**1 Peter 5:10 & 11 (NIV 84)**

9

Obey those  
in authority

*Remind them to **be subject to rulers**, to authorities, to **be obedient**, to be ready for every good deed,*

**Titus 3:1 (NASB)**

***Obey your leaders and submit to their authority.** They keep watch over you as men who must give an account. Obey them so that their work will be a joy, not a burden, for that would be of no advantage to you.*

**Hebrews 13:17 (NIV 84)**

10

## God establishes governments

Let **every person** be in subjection to the governing authorities. For **there is no authority except from God**, and those which exist are established by God. Therefore he who resists authority has opposed the ordinance of God; and they who have opposed will receive condemnation upon themselves. For rulers are not a cause of fear for good behavior, but for evil. Do you want to have no fear of authority? Do what is good, and you will have praise from the same; for it is a minister of God to you for good. But if you do what is evil, be afraid; for it does not bear the sword for nothing; for it is a minister of God, an avenger who brings wrath upon the one who practices evil. **Wherefore it is necessary to be in subjection, not only because of wrath, but also for conscience' sake.** For because of this you also pay taxes, for rulers are servants of God

Romans 13:1-6 (NASB)

11

"The LORD shall **reign forever and ever.**"

Exodus 15:18 (NASB)

Our God  
reigns

At the end of that time, I, Nebuchadnezzar, raised my eyes toward heaven, and my sanity was restored. Then I praised the Most High; I honored and glorified him who lives forever. **His dominion is an eternal dominion; his kingdom endures from generation to generation.** All the peoples of the earth are regarded as nothing. He does as he pleases with the powers of heaven and the peoples of the earth. No one can hold back his hand or say to him: "What have you done?"

Daniel 4:34-35 (NIV 84)

12

## The psalmist declares God's sovereignty

*The **LORD reigns**, he is robed in majesty; the LORD is robed in majesty and is armed with strength. The world is firmly established; it cannot be moved. Your throne was established long ago; **you are from all eternity**. The seas have lifted up, O LORD, the seas have lifted up their voice; the seas have lifted up their pounding waves. Mightier than the thunder of the great waters, mightier than the breakers of the sea - the LORD on high is mighty. Your statutes stand firm; **holiness adorns your house for endless days**, O LORD.*

**Psalm 93:1-5 (NIV 84)**

13

If God  
reigns, we  
can trust  
Him

*And we know that **God causes all things** to work together **for good** to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.*

**Romans 8:28 (NASB)**

*And as for you, you meant evil against me, but **God meant it for good in order to bring about this present result**, to preserve many people alive.*

**Genesis 50:20 (NASB)**

14

## Trust God; don't worry

*Trust in the **LORD** with all your heart and **lean not on your own understanding**; in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight.*

Proverbs 3:5-6 (NIV 84)

*Do not be **anxious about anything**, but in everything, by prayer and petition, **with thanksgiving**, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which **transcends all understanding**, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.*

Philippians 4:6 & 7 (NIV 84)