**Called To Be Ambassadors**

**by Pastor Fee Soliven**

**2 Corinthians 5:18-21**

**Sunday Morning**

**November 20, 2022**

**2 Corinthians 5:18-21**

18 Now all things are of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation, 19 that is, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not imputing their trespasses to them, and has committed to us the word of reconciliation.

20 Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us: we implore you on Christ's behalf, be reconciled to God. 21 For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

**We All Impact others whether We’re aware of it or not**

Saints, the degree varies according to each individual’s sphere of influence and opportunities, but all of us touch other people’s lives for good or bad.

Only Christians, though, can have a spiritual impact for Christ because we alone are indwelt by His Spirit.

**Jesus’ Characteristics of an Ambassador**

**Matthew 5:13**

"You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt loses its flavor, how shall it be seasoned? It is then good for nothing but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot by men”

**Matthew 5:14-16**

14 You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. 15 Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. 16 Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.

**“You are the Salt of the Earth”**

Saints, salt is different from the substance it touches, and the same is true for believers. We’re different and separate from the world we impact.

**2 Corinthians 6:17-18**

17 Therefore "Come out from among them And be separate, says the Lord. Do not touch what is unclean, And I will receive you." 18 "I will be a Father to you, And you shall be My sons and daughters, Says the LORD Almighty."

Saints, in a society characterized by sin, our holy and purified lives stand in stark contrast. We’re warned in Romans 12:2 not to be conformed to this world, but to be transformed by the renewing of our minds.

**Romans 12:1-2**

1 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. 2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

**We relate to the world as salt does with the substance it touches**

**Salt Flavors**

It has the power to turn what is tasteless into something enjoyable. In the same way, we bring flavor to a world filled with people whose lives are empty and void because they don’t know Jesus.

**Salt Preserves**

In Roman times, salt was a very valuable commodity because it was the only means of preserving food. Christians have a similar preserving influence on a corrupt world. Our witness can help turn an unbeliever to Christ and preserve them from the decay of sinful choices.

**Salt Penetrates**

The Holy Spirit uses our godly example and witness to drive the truth into the heart in such a way that it permeates the entire person.

**Salt Creates Thirst**

Believers are living examples of spiritual transformation. The joy, peace, and contentment that Christ gives us are attractive to thirsty souls whom the Spirit is drawing to the Savior.

**Salt is Quiet**

Sometimes God draws people to Christ through the quiet means of observation. As they see our godly behavior, gracious responses, and patient endurance, their hearts may be opened to the gospel.

**Salt Heals**

As salt gives relief to a sore throat, so we are called to offer healing to a broken world. Compassion, kindness, and a listening ear let hurting people experience Christ’s love through us.

**Jesus’ Warning**

**Matthew 5:13**

"You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt loses its flavor, how shall it be seasoned? It is then good for nothing but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot by men”

In those days, salt was collected from evaporated sea water. It was scraped up from the ground along with impurities. If there were too many impurities, the salt became tasteless and useless.

Sin has the same corrupting influence on our ability to impact those around us for Christ. When a believer tolerates sin, he becomes useless to the Lord. Those who become like the world have nothing different to offer them.

**Matthew 5:14**

“You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden”

**1 John 1:5-7**

5 This is the message which we have heard from Him and declare to you, that God is light and in Him is no darkness at all. 6 If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth.

7 But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.

Saints, now Jesus declares to those who have trusted Him as Savior:

**Matthew 5:14**

“You are the light of the world.

Then He adds:

**Matthew 5:16**

“Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven”

Saints, our light isn’t our own, but rather a reflection of Christ within us. God uses that light to draw people to Himself, not to us, so that He alone receives the all the Glory!

**We Impact the People around us Just as Light does Darkness**

**Light is Clear and Pure**

Our lives should be characterized by purity and clarity. The person we are in public ought to be the same person we are in private.

**Light Reveals what’s Hidden in the Darkness**

When we’re characterized by godliness, those who are unrighteous see the difference between their lives and ours. Sometimes they feel guilty because they know they’re not living as they should. Others may ask us why our lives are so different, and that opens the door for us to share the gospel with them.

**Light Drives Darkness Away**

When people are uncomfortable around us, it might be because they’re feeling the conviction of the Holy Spirit. This could lead to antagonism and even persecution.

**John 3:19-21**

19 And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. 20 For everyone practicing evil hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed. 21 But he who does the truth comes to the light, that his deeds may be clearly seen, that they have been done in God."

But sometimes the Lord uses the light in us to drive them from darkness to salvation.

**Light Guides**

God uses us like a lamp to guide the unbelieving onto the path of truth.

**Light Warns**

Without light we can’t see the obstacles before us, and this is spiritually true for the lost. We can warn them that they’re in danger and need the Savior.

**Light Warms**

We should never be cold and unfeeling toward those trapped in darkness. They need to know we care, so they can see Christ’s love flowing through us. While Jesus was in the world, He was the Light of the world,

**John 9:4-5**

4 I must work the works of Him who sent Me while it is day; the night is coming when no one can work. 5 As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world."

Saints, but now, He’s at the Father’s right hand in heaven, and He’s left His church here to be the light to the world. As the church proclaims the Word of God, it’s a bright beacon showing people the way to salvation.

**Last Warning**

Just as salt is made useless by impurities, so light becomes ineffective if it doesn’t shine brightly. Sin in our lives is like soot covering the globe of our lantern or like a short wick that barely flickers.

We need to be clear, strong lights so we can impact the lost world with the knowledge of Christ.

**1. If you were the only Christian someone knew, would they see Christ’s light in you and want to know Jesus?**

**2. What kinds of impurities are keeping you from being the salt and light of the world?**

**3. How have you been distracted by the world’s values and pursuits?**

**4. What sins are you tolerating in your life?**

**5. Do the people at work or in the neighborhood know you’re a believer?**

**6. How is your life different from those around you?**

Saints, Soon and Very soon, Jesus is about to appear, we are almost out of here!

**1 Thessalonians 4:13-18**

13 But I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep, lest you sorrow as others who have no hope. 14 For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus.

15 For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep. 16 For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first.

17 Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord. 18 Therefore comfort one another with these words.

**1 Corinthians 15:50-54**

50 Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; nor does corruption inherit incorruption. 51 Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed-- 52 in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.

53 For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. 54 So when this corruptible has put on incorruption, and this mortal has put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written: "Death is swallowed up in victory."

**Acts 2:38-39**

38 Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. 39 For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call."

**Let's Pray!**

**Benediction**

**"May The LORD bless you and keep you, May The LORD make His face shine upon you, May The LORD be gracious to you, May The LORD lift up His countenance upon you, and give you His (Shalom) peace." '**