

A Sound Church

A sound church is not merely a church that sounds good, but rather one that is firmly anchored in truth!

“That they may be sound”
Titus 1:13

- Sound in **DOCTRINE** • Titus 2:1
- Sound in **FAITH** • Titus 1:13
- Sound in **UNITY** • John 17
- Sound in **ORGANIZATION** • Ephesians 4:11
- Sound in **WORK** • Titus 3:1
- Sound in **WORSHIP** • John 4:24
- Sound in **TEACHING** • 2 Timothy 4:1-4
- Sound in **GIVING** • 2 Corinthians 9:7-8
- Sound in **ZEAL** • 2 Corinthians 9:2
- Sound in **LEADERSHIP** • Acts 2:38



“But speak thou the things which become sound doctrine.” Titus 2:1

Barnes' Bible Charts

Elders:
Leonard Key / David Key
Billy Box / Eddy Dickinson

Deacons: Al Corkren / Josh Berryhill

Minister: Greg Lowery

Brilliant Church of Christ
930 Main Street
P.O. Box 222
Brilliant, AL 35548

Contact Information:

Phone: (205) 465-9142

Website:

www.brilliantchurchofchrist.org

With Just A Little Salt



The Brilliant Beacon



Expectations of Well Seasoned Words

By Jonathan McAnulty

Jesus had high expectations of His followers.

“You are the salt of the earth,” Jesus told them, indicating the influence He expected them to have on the world. (cf. Matthew 5:13-14) This phrase, “salt of the earth,” has come to mean a person of great kindness, love and honesty – which is certainly in harmony with how the Lord used it.

Salt has certain well noted characteristics which help us understand why Jesus used it as a metaphor for how His followers were to behave. Firstly, salt enhances food. It adds flavor, texture, and even vital nutrients. Simply put, food with added salt is generally better than food without any salt. Secondly, salt acts as a preservative. It’s one of the oldest and most common methods for preserving food. The salt draws out moisture, while also killing harmful microbes that would spoil the food. Thus food with salt is less likely to go bad.

When it comes to Christians in the world, Jesus expected His followers to make the world a better place through their speech and their actions. He also expected them to be life-preservers, teaching men the Gospel by which God brings salvation (cf. Romans 1:16).

But Jesus also had a warning.

Salt of that era was largely mined. Salt ore, like all ores, was seldom pure, and as salt is water soluble, aged salt, when exposed to moisture would actually start losing the salt, eventually leaving behind nothing but a collection of fine rocks. Such unsalty “salt” was not suitable for food and so it was tossed out on the road where at least the trace elements of remaining salt might still act to kill the grass.

So Jesus said, “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 5:13; NKJV)

Followers of Christ who fail to be a positive influence on the world around them are of no use to the Lord. As was noted initially, Jesus has high expectations of His followers.

THOSE WHO NEED OUR PRAYERS

Mary Rainey: has bone cancer throughout her body, please be praying for her and her family

Patty Berryhill: having problems with a hernia, please pray that the doctors can help her with this problem

Billy Lee & Jimmie Ann Hardy {Carolyn’s Brother & Sister} both are in the nursing home in Guin, please continue to pray for them they both have some health issues

Joey Colburn: is taking treatments for cancer, please pray that the treatments will be successful in defeating his cancer

Buddy Frazier: undergoing cancer treatments, please keep him in your prayers

Hunter Coal Corkren: treating his kidney problem with medicine, please be praying that this problem clears up with this treatment

Felicia Berryhill: she is having some ongoing health problems, please pray that she will be able to receive the right medical treatment to help her

Angie Ganey Gardner: breast cancer surgery went well and is waiting learn the next course of treatment, please pray that this cancer will be defeated

David Warren: he is fighting cancer, please be praying that his cancer will be defeated

Bobby Sanderson: continues to improve, please pray he has no further problems

Gunner Pendley: recovering from severe brain injury, please keep him and family in your prayers

Janet Spann: has severe COPD and other health problems, please keep her and her family in your prayers

Tommy Housh: diagnosed with bladder cancer, please pray that they will be able to successfully defeat this cancer

THOSE WHO NEED OUR PRAYERS

Tammy Dodd: recovering from recent stroke, please pray she makes a full recovery

Jeff Upton (Donna Martin’s Co-worker): weakness in his legs, please pray that this will improve

Mary Box: some ongoing other health problems, please pray that she will improve

Ren Garrison (Donna Martin’s Nephew): is still dealing with an issue concerning his heart, please be praying that this issue will be dealt with successfully

Tyler Upton: is now home recovering, please keep him and his family in your prayers

Larry Eads: (member at Carbon Hill) diagnosed with stage 4 esophagus cancer, please keep him and his family in your prayers

Jack Willis (Meg Rutledge’s Father) is fighting cancer, please keep him and his family in your prayers

Shauna Silas: diagnosed with thyroid cancer, please be praying that with treatments this cancer will be defeated

Celia Grace Hamlett (3 year old): biopsies came back cancer they are doing blood studies to confirm; let us pray that the results are negative and that she is cancer free

Nelle Fraizer (Lellie’s Sister); she has some ongoing health problems

Winfred York: is at home and has been placed under hospice care, please continue to pray for him and Mrs. Vertie

Paul, picking up the same theme, urged the Christians in Colossians, “Let your speech always be with grace, seasoned with salt, that you may know how you ought to answer each one.” (Colossians 4:6; NKJV) In a parallel passion to the Ephesians, he worded it thusly: “Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers.” (Ephesians 4:29; NKJV)

Our words can be powerful for both good and ill. Christ expects us to use our words so as to be a positive influence in the world. Our speech should use such words as impart grace, words which build up and edify others. They should be words that are well chosen. They should be, in short, words that are “seasoned with salt.”

Again, remember that salt makes things better. It improves that to which it is added. If our words do not act to improve the world around us, then they are not the words Christ wants us to be speaking.

There are many ways in which our words can act as a positive influence on the world. They can be words of joy and encouragement. They can be words of hope and faith. They can be words of love and kindness. They should most certainly be words of truth and purity. (cf. Ephesians 4:25-32, 5:3-4)

Salt also works to remove those things which are harmful. In the same way, Christians are told, concerning their deeds and their words, “have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather expose them.” (Ephesians 5:11) Thus, Jesus urged men to repent, lest they perish (cf. Luke 13:3). Loving, “salted” words are not words which encourage sin, rather they are words which encourage the right choices in life. (cf. 1 Corinthians 13:6). They are words of truth, spoken in love. (cf. Ephesians 4:15)

Followers of Christ should always be choosing our words with care. A well-chosen word is a precious thing of great value (cf. Proverbs 25:11). An improper word reveals a wicked heart. ((cf. Matthew 12:34) For this reason, we should heed James’ advice to be slow to speak. (cf. James 1:19). We should think about what we are going to say, and what effect it will have on others. We should realize that idle words will bring judgment. *cf. Matthew 12:36) But the proper words are life eternal. (cf. John 6:68)

Obtained at: www.churchofchristarticles.com

Purchased People Are Peculiar—Are You?

By Dan Jenkins

I remember when I was a child hearing Christians misuse the King James rendering of Peter's words in 1 Peter 2:9. "You are a peculiar people." Whenever there was a social misfit or a person "whose eyeballs don't line up with the holes in his head," someone would say, "Well the Bible says we are to be peculiar, and he is the "peculiarist" person I have ever known. They failed to understand that in 1611, when the translation was made, the word "peculiar" was used to describe those who have been purchased. However, Christians actually are different.

Christians are different in how they treat other Christians. Early in the second century, a Roman official described Christians and ended his description by saying, "But oh how they love each other." We do. Each week when services end, I marvel at just how many stand for such a long time to visit with their brethren. The building is filled with love. So many times this has been expressed to me about the love you have for fellow Christians.

Christians are different in how they care for each other. We send cards to each other. We pray for each other, and this is seen so often in posts on Facebook when so many say to a hurting Christian, "I am praying for you." We encourage each other. We exhort each other. We lift up when there is adversity in our lives. We care for others because He cares.

Christians are different in the moral values which rule our lives. I recall a Christian whose boss told him to lie as to whether he was in the office. The Christian refused and said, "I will not tell a lie. You need to know that if I will lie for you, I will lie to you." Our world is filled with liars, but Christians are different. We cannot seem to forget those closing words of Revelation 21:8. Our values are so different!

Christians are different in our views about marriage. We enter marriage with a view of the lifetime commitment to our mates. Even in the struggles which come in marriage, we rarely even think about the "D word"—it is not in our vocabulary. We have not bought into the world's view of same-sex "marriage" because He who created marriage retains the right to define it!

Christians are different in how we are entertained. We do not spend time like others who "rejoice in iniquity" (1 Cor. 13:6) nor do we find pleasure in seeing the world's ungodliness (Rom. 1:32). The choices we make about recreation are not the same choices our friends make.

Let's face it—Christians are different. Because of this it might pay you to see if your salt and light are salt without savor or lights hidden from the world. If your friends do not see you as "peculiar," you might should make some changes.

Obtained at: www.churchofchristarticles.com

"Think on These Things"

Philippians 4:8

Finally Brethren . .

Whatever things are TRUE

What ever things are HONEST

Whatever things are JUST

Whatever things are PURE

Whatever things are LOVELY

Whatever things are of GOOD REPORT

If there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things.

