

Consecration 2014

Salt is made an example of the Christian life in a parable that Jesus spoke. He said to us as believers that “ye are the salt of the earth” (*Matthew 5:13*) and “Have salt in yourselves” (*Mark 9:50*). Jesus said that Christians are to be like salt to the world. That means that we are to affect the world morally and spiritually as salt effects the world materially. Salt is a compound that consists of sodium chloride and is used especially to season or to preserve food.

THE SALT OF THE EARTH



While salt is a simple commodity in life it is, however, a very valuable commodity. For us today, salt is cheap to buy and generally considered simply a mundane thing. The cheapness of the price and the ready availability of salt today has kept us, in our times, from esteeming its value as we should. But salt has been important to man as a seasoning and preserving agent since prehistoric times.

Salt has been called by ancient wise men as divine. Plato, one of the wise men in times gone by, said that salt was a substance that was dear to the gods. In my study, I found that Barbarian tribes have sometimes made a bag of salt worth more than a man's life. I have read summaries of missionaries telling of African natives coming from 50 or more miles to the missionaries pleading, not for money, bread, or clothes, but for salt. The ancient Jews valued salt as a preservative for food and because it was required in their worship (*Leviticus 2:13*). Every offering had to be made with salt.

Ye are the salt of the earth: but if the salt have lost his savor wherewith shall it be salted?

Salt Is Worth More Than \$

There were even times in history where salt cakes served as money in ancient Ethiopia. The word salary in the English language today can be traced back to the salt allotment of the soldiers of the Roman army.

All of this shows the great value of salt to society past and present and it also shows the great value of the saints of God to society. Often, Christians were considered of little value, yet we are indeed, as Jesus said, “the salt of the earth”. Our value to the well-being of our cities, towns, states, and nation is very great. If you have any doubt about that, all you have to do is read Genesis 18 and consider the destruction of Sodom to realize how valuable God’s people are. God said just 10 righteous people living in Sodom would have kept Sodom from destruction.

People who don’t know God often despise those who do. As we enter into this time of dedicating ourselves to God, we need to understand that God is not interested in us becoming like salt, but we are to become the salt of the earth. We have to influence the people in our lives in a positive way. We will begin our annual consecration by asking you to spend extra time in prayer with God and please understand that fasting without praying has very little spiritual value.

For the benefit of those of you who have never gone through this period of fasting with us, we ask that you will only eat one meal a day after the 6PM hour. In addition to that, as we start this first week of this month on January 2nd, we will also not consume any products with sugar or sugar substitute, any colas, diet colas, coffee or tea. We will have prayer on Friday night at 7:30PM and ask that you join us at that time to petition the throne of God in a corporate way.

Week I Prayer Objectives

- ▶ Salvation of loved ones and people coming to Christ.
- ▶ The church, the ministry of the church, and what God wants to accomplish this year. The Lord has said that He wants to enlarge the borders of our ministry and outreach.

Salt Is Good



Salt is good: but if the salt have lost his saltness, wherewith will ye season it? have salt in yourselves, and have peace one with another. *Mark 9:50*