



## *SALT and LIGHT*

BY: Chris Harper, AD

Matthew 5: 13-16 reads:

<sup>13</sup>“You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled underfoot.”

<sup>14</sup> “You are the light of the

“incorruptible prize” our staff and student athletes will be focusing on what it means to be “salt and light.”

As Christians it is important that we know the context and meaning of this phrase that Jesus used. Jesus used the

*“As salt we are preserving ourselves for the return of Christ; actively working and learning from His Spirit as we grow in holiness conforming to the image of Jesus.”*

world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. <sup>15</sup>Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. <sup>16</sup>In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.”

This year, as an athletic department running for the

concepts of salt and light to help His followers see their purpose in the world. Salt had two purposes in the Middle East within the first century. Because of the lack of refrigeration, salt was used to preserve food, especially meat which would quickly spoil in the desert environment. This openly correlates as we followers of Christ must stay preserved

## *Upcoming events*



7/30-8/6 – First week of practice for all middle school and high school sports.

8/1 – Registration is officially closed for all fall sports.

within a fallen world. One of the hardest things we do as Christians every day is fight the temptations of, and from, the fallen world in which we live. The Bible commands that we are not, “to conform to the patterns of this world but be transformed by the renewing of our mind (romans 12:2).” As Christians we must guard our lives, minds, and souls in such a way so that we do not become polluted by the evil inherent in our society today. As salt we are preserving ourselves for the return of Christ; actively working and learning from His Spirit as we grow in holiness conforming to the image of Jesus.

In the analogy of light to the world, the good works of Christ’s followers are to shine for all to see. The following verses in Matthew 5 highlight this truth: “You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden; nor does anyone light a lamp and put it

under a basket, 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.”

The idea here is similar—the presence of light in darkness is something which is unmistakable. The presence of Christians in the world must be like a light in the darkness, not only in the sense that the truth of God’s Word brings light to the darkened hearts of sinful man (John 1:1-10), but also in the sense that our good deeds must be evident for all to see. And indeed, our deeds will be evident if they are performed in accordance with the other principles which Jesus mentions in this passage, such as the Beatitudes (Matthew 5:3-11). Notice especially that the concern is not that Christians would stand out for their own sake, but that those who looked on

might, “glorify your Father who is in heaven (v. 16).”

Being salt and light is not just an option the Christian may choose, but rather it is a calling that one inherits upon salvation. Over the next few weeks we will look at the importance of such a calling, the inherent dangers in losing our saltiness and light, and as believers how we can grow in faith through the preservation of our witness and the light in our lives.

I am excited to be back and sharing with everyone again. Many blessings as we begin 2014-2015.

Be well,

C. Harper