



## SALT and LIGHT

BY: Chris Harper

Though preservation, both in and of, your Christian walk is crucial, it by no means is our only goal. Nor is preservation our most important motive, rather it is one means to a very specific end: BE LIGHT. Jesus tells and commands us:

“You are the light of the

good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.”

As Christ is the direct expression of God (Col 2:9), we, renewed believers in Christ, we are now Christ’s ambassadors to the world (2 Cor 5:20). The Bible tells us we

*Do you desire holiness and meekness; do you live to be selfless, kind, good-tempered and Christlike?*

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.”  
–Matt 5:14-16

As Christians we are the light of Christ. Ephesians 2:10 tells us:

“For we are God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do

are “the light of the world... and our deeds should shine before men so that our Father will be glorified.” –Matt 5:16 Being a reflection of Christ and a light unto the world is an awesome responsibility, and, at the same time, it is a weighty task. Yet, it is a task worthy of our calling, and one Jesus not only delegates to us but also gives us all authority and power to accomplish through Him:

“Then Jesus came near and said to them, “All authority has been given to Me in

## Upcoming events



### Friday 9/19

V Volleyball @ CAL, 6 p.m.  
G Soccer vs. Presentation, 7:30 p.m.  
MS Soccer vs. KCD (A and B), 4:30 p.m.  
MS Volleyball vs. Whitefield, 6 p.m.  
V Tennis vs. Providence, 4:30 p.m.

### Saturday, 9/20

V Cross Country @ Crawford Co., 9 a.m.

### Monday 9/22

G V Soccer @ Switzerland Co., 6 p.m.  
MS Soccer (A) @ St Francis, 5:30 p.m.  
B V Soccer vs. CEC, 6 p.m.  
V Volleyball @ New Washington, 6 pm  
MS Cross Country @ East Washington, 5:30 p.m.  
MS Tennis vs. Borden, 4:30 p.m.  
V Tennis vs. South Central, 5:30 p.m.

### Tuesday 9/23

V Cross Country @ Silver Creek, 5 p.m.  
V Tennis @ FC, 5 p.m.  
MS Tennis vs. Crawford Co., 5 p.m.  
V Volleyball @ Lanesville, 6 p.m.  
MS Volleyball vs. Clarksville, @ 6 p.m.

heaven and on earth. <sup>19</sup>Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, <sup>20</sup>teaching them to observe everything I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”  
-Matt 28:18-20

It is both for Christ and through Christ that we let our light shine, and nowhere else is our light more visible than through the application of personal holiness. It is of the utmost importance that we “adorn the doctrine of God our Savior” and make it, as Ryle said, “Lovely and beautiful by our daily habits and tempers.” Like Ryle in his time, I too have had a deep concern with the lack or absence of practical holiness and entire self-consecration to God. Ryle believed;

“Politics, controversy, party spirit and worldliness have eaten out the heart of lively piety in too many of us. The subject of personal godliness has fallen, sadly, into the background. The standard of living has become painfully low in many quarters...” I too agree with Ryle and spend many nights, not only wrestling with the plight of those I know, but sleepless

with deep conviction of my own painfully low standard of living. I tend to ask myself three questions regarding my new nature in Christ:

- 1) Is my new nature reflected in my speech?
- 2) Is my new nature reflected in my actions?
- 3) Is my new nature reflected in my thoughts?

Over the next few weeks we will look at these categories and my hope is, as I work through many of my own personal “failings,” you too can search your own “quarters” and find reservoirs that are painfully low.

Before we jump into consecration, let us not be ignorant of conversion. Many of us today falter in our faith because our faith is not real. We have a faith that is predicated on something other than Jesus Christ, some other foundation. Before we can approach the subject of holiness, before we can move in and about a consecrated life, we must have a new life, a regenerated life rooted in repentance and belief in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. So I ask, plainly, bluntly, have you put your faith in Jesus Christ? Have you repented, turned

from your sin and trusted in the saving work of Jesus?

While holiness is the language every believer wishes to speak, to the unbeliever holiness in no way resembles the native tongue. The unbeliever has yet to experience the grace of God therefore does not understand, nor have a desire for, holy living. This is where grace, justification and sanctification collide... by grace we are justified in Christ and it is by grace and because of grace that we desire sanctification. In that, you who are justified, do you desire sanctification? Do you desire holiness and meekness, do you live to be selfless, kind, good-tempered and Christlike? If this is not our hearts desire than perhaps sanctification is the cart that we have put before our horse. Let us go back to the stables of our heart and address our need to be justified before God. Let us allow grace and faith to flow through our repentant hearts as we trust in Jesus Christ as our Savior. Let this be our beginning so that we may rejoice together, with Christ, at the end.

Be well,

C. Harper, AD