

Matthew 5.15-16 - You are the light of the Earth

### Announcements

Want to keep up on what's going on around here? Drop your info card in the offering plate and we'll add you to the e-newsletter list.

### Halloween Fund Raiser

Interested in helping with our annual Pregnancy Resource Center Halloween Fundraiser? Contact Brytt Keel - 360-621-8111 or [bkeel@strategyrealestate.net](mailto:bkeel@strategyrealestate.net)

### Foundations Class starting November 1st!

### Communities:

This is where we gather to pray, study and encourage one another as part of the missional work of the Gospel. We would love to get to know you more, and this is one of the best ways to get planted as a part of Seaside.

Please consider joining a Community to strengthen the not only your family, but the larger community.

Contact

[eric@seasidechurch.com](mailto:eric@seasidechurch.com)  
for info on where groups meet or to lead/host one.

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We preserve the wounds of the world as salt until, if God wills, the Great Healer and the Light of the World comes to make that wound whole. **The Light's purpose is to primarily do two things - 1) Expose the darkness (i.e. sin and it's effect - death) wherever it exists, and 2) To show the way out (salvation and it's effect - life).** It is for this reason that Jesus declares that He is the Light of the World, and those who follows Him will not walk in darkness anymore, but will *have* the **Light of Life** (Jn 8.12; 1 Jn 1.5-7). And in **having Christ in us**, the believer will also **be Light**.

We are not primarily dealing with a physical light here, but rather a spiritual one (Jn 12.35-46). This means that the light must shine not so much **by us** as **through us**. This does not disregard the need to be a witness *verbally* of the Light (*Paul in Acts 26.17-23*), but the actual work is done because He opens their eyes (*Lydia in Acts 16.14*) and leads the way home (Eph 1.15.23; 2 Tim 1.10). Our lives are used physically as a result of **who we are in Christ**, according to 5.16 (Jn 1.7-9; 2 Cor 2.14-17). That means that, in turn, that our core fight, our greatest struggle, in this work will be spiritual (Eph 6.10-20; Rom 13.11-13). This because those in darkness, like their father, hate the light (Jn 3.20-21).

### How does that look practically in our community and lives?

A few things can help us as we seek to live as the light He has made us to be 1) We must **shift our focus** (Deut 30), 2) We must **pray**, 3) We must **prepare our hearts and minds** (2 Tim. 2.20-27; Eph. 2.8-10), 4) We must **invest** our lives (Gal. 2.19-21), 5) We must **trust** the He is not asking us to be the "savior" of the world, but rather Has worked in us a new heart, mind and life so that we might serve Him. (6.25-34)

**And what happens if we can see no evidence of this light in our lives? Or we find ourselves hating the Light & it's work in our lives?** Well, we need to first look at and be warned by passages such as Luke 11.33-36 & Isaiah 50.10-11. **If we are using God to love & worship "self", how great the darkness must be in us.** Even though the Light is very near, it has no real impact. That's a very desperate place to be, for they are like a people without a homeland - the world does not want us, and they have no place before the throne of God. But they have not been left stranded - Ephesians 5 is clear on not only *what* must be done, but also *why* it is so important to be in the Light.

**v.16** - The primary focus here is not us, the disciples, or the visible community of believers, but rather the *good works*. This can be a troubling statement - if we are saved by grace alone, but not through what we do, then what is Jesus saying here. These *good works* are not works that we have mustered up, but rather the works that God has manifest through and in our lives (Phil. 2.12-18). In seeing His work in our lives, the evidence of our faith and trust in Him, they will glorify the only One who could make such things be in a dying and lost world.

**We are the salt of the earth, preserving the wounds and decay through who we are in Christ, as lights in the world, distinctive and involved, until the Great Healer, comes and brings them out of darkness into the Light of Life.**