

Prophetic Insight

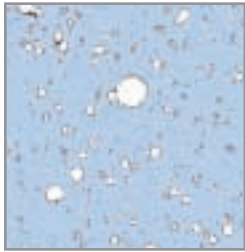
January 17, 2017

“You are the salt of the earth...”

(Matthew 5:13)

In biblical times being the “salt of the earth” meant that a person represented the best or noblest character qualities in that society. So having our Lord tell His disciples they were the *salt of the earth* is both great praise and great responsibility.

Was Our Lord Referring To Granulated Salt Or A Salt Block?



There’s a difference! To be granulated salt means you actively live out His command to *permeate*—to spread throughout—especially by reaching the unbelievers around you. Isn’t this the essence of what our Lord commands each person who truly belongs to Him to do, particularly in light of His “great commission”?

“All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Me. Therefore as you go through life, make disciples [PERMEATE] of [everyone around you], baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age” (Matthew 28:18-20, a pointed paraphrase. See also Luke 13:20,21 for the *permeation process* of yeast with a batch of dough.).

- Do you know anyone to whom our Lord Jesus would say, “*YOU are the salt of the earth?*”
- Are you a **salt granule** who is permeating your neighborhood, workplace, school?

Over 300,000 congregations throughout this nation meet weekly. So why has the United States plummeted to such a low level of vice and immorality? Why do such widespread chaos and discord dominate this land? And on a larger note, why isn’t Christianity strongly influencing the world after 2,000 years since Christ’s ascension? The blame lies squarely on the hodgepodge of “Christian” salt blocks!

The salt block mentality began early within Roman Catholicism and was later adapted by most Protestant persuasions. Rather than being the salt that permeates as Jesus envisioned, religious systems place more emphasis on membership

**Centuries Of Religious Leaders
Have Endorsed The *Anti-Permeation
Isolation Of Salt Block Methodology***



**They Produce *Salt Block Homes* Who
Fail To Permeate Their Neighborhood!**



Restoration Ministries International

*Sharing the Hebraic Foundations of the Earliest Followers of Jesus
Preparing Today’s Followers of Jesus to Do Their Part in His Kingdom*

within their particular *salt block* by embracing their particular creedal framework. Control over the *salt block* system was maintained and perpetuated by clergy who adeptly used select portions of the Bible to convince people to agree with the emphasis of their distinctive creed.

Whether Catholic or Protestant, the *salt block* mentality has led to competing “church” buildings popping up in nearly every neighborhood — yet having utterly no effect on the moral direction of the society around them. Over the centuries the *salt block* method has also produced the “mission station” *salt block* mentality overseas. Missionaries representing a variety of denominational persuasions have promoted a *non-permeating, creedal-system-based, spiritually powerless, competitive salt block religious structure in which maturity is stifled and society stays the same.*

(In Matthew 23:1-15 our Lord indicts the *salt block mentality* of religious leaders which still prevails today.)

Many religious leaders like to cite the positives of contemporary Christian evangelism. But what they call “evangelism” our Lord would condemn as **“*insular recruitment*”**: joining a particular congregation or denomination by embracing a creedal position yet remaining unchanged in personal goals, values or actions.

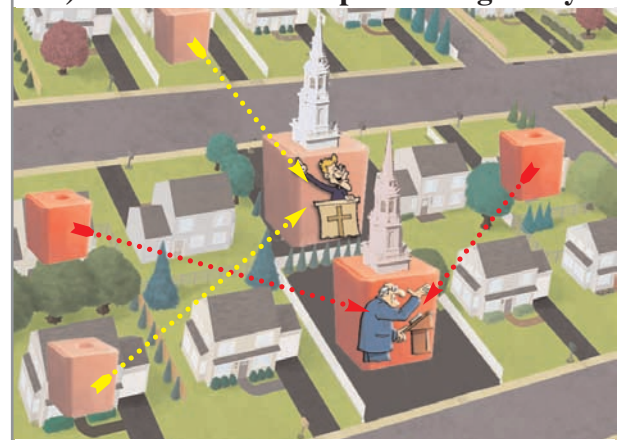
But those who are accustomed to *salt block Christianity* and “evangelism” with its denominationally-affiliated mission stations have nullified personal reliance on two scriptural essentials: •**the *Lordship of Jesus*** (see Romans 10:9,10; 1Thessalonians 5:9; Philippians 2:9-11; Colossians 2:6,3:17; Jude 1:4), and •**the *need for the Spirit’s power*** (see Acts 1:8; 1Corinthians 4:20; 2Corinthians 4:7; 2Thessalonians 1:5,11; 2Timothy 1:7,3:5).

[To further understand these two issues see: Lifebyte 36. *Are You Trapped In Mission-Station Thinking?*,

and Lifebytes 37 & 38. *Extending The Kingdom: The People Movement Approach.*]

Our Lord knows that salt both stems decay and brings a savory flavor through the lives of His own. That two-fold influence comes about through *permeation* as His upright and genuinely loving Kingdom representatives! But that influence of being “*the salt of the earth*” has dissipated into flavorless “trampled salt.” The daily news reflects the resultant curse of God on this nation because Christians haven’t permeated neighborhoods or nations as *granular salt*. From individuals to families to communities and even to government, *greed, hatred and prejudice* now reign supreme. The Psalmist’s lament has become painfully obvious: “*The wicked freely strut about when what is vile is honored among men*” (Psalms 12:8).

For generations the spiritual training of children throughout Christendom has been outsourced from the *salt block home* to the *salt block “church”*—each neglecting our Lord’s commands about *parents raising Godly generations* (Deuteronomy 6:1-9; Malachi 2:14, 15; Ephesians 6:4). *Parents (and grandparents) are to role model a permeating lifestyle!*



Each successive generation has failed to witness unity in the body of Christ. Not recognizing any responsibility to be *permeating salt* to others, they simply soak up the *salt block isolation* of their parents and clergy.

The Dire Consequences When Christians Continue To Be Creedally-Divided Salt Blocks



• born 1927-1945:
65% Bible-based
Christians



• born 1946-1964:
35% Bible-based
Christians



• born 1965-1983:
16% Bible-based
Christians



• born after 1984:
4% Bible-based
Christians



• born 20??:
Bible Banned

When people who call themselves “Christian” fail to obey Jesus’s command to permeate their families, neighborhoods, society, and government, they ultimately lose!

Failure To Permeate Always Has Divine Consequences

“Salt is good, but if it loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is fit neither for the soil nor for the manure pile; it is thrown out. He who has ears to hear, let him hear” (Luke 14:34,35).

Both Testaments affirm that through His people God wants *the world to know* about Him, His glorious works and plans, and His righteous commands. He first entrusted this responsibility to the Israelites:

*“Observe [My commands] carefully, for this will show your wisdom and understanding **to the nations**, who will hear about all these decrees and say, ‘Surely this great nation is a wise and understanding people’” (Deuteronomy 4:6).*

*“Declare His glory among the nations, His marvelous deeds **among all peoples**” (Psalms 96:3; see also Psalms 22:27,28; 45:17).*

The Older Testament gives us no indication that the Israelites actively followed through on God’s command to reach the world. He wanted them set apart from the ways of the world yet *permeate it* with knowledge of Him. Instead they saw themselves segregated from

everyone else, having no responsibility to reach other nations with the love and power of the One True God.

The Book of Jonah is one example of God’s intention and plan to reach more than just the Israelites. The reluctant prophet was commanded by God to go to Nineveh, a Gentile (pagan) community, to tell them to repent—and (to Jonah’s dismay) they did!

Because of their repeated rebellion God dispersed the Israelites among the nations, first through the Assyrian conquest and then when the Babylonians overcame them. What Israel refused to do, God accomplished His way by forcibly scattering them so that centuries later during the Council in Jerusalem, the apostle James could confidently state:

*“For Moses has been **preached in every city from the earliest times** and is read in the synagogues on every Sabbath” (Acts 15:21).*

And during our Lord’s sojourn on earth He often reminded the Jewish people of their obligation to permeate and to stretch their understanding of *“loving your neighbor as yourself”* (Leviticus 19:18), especially as He pointedly related to them the parable of the non-Jew, the “Good Samaritan” (see Luke 10:25-37).

When God's People Fail To Permeate Other Nations, He Brings Them To Us

In the righteous commands God gave the Israelites through Moses, He was careful to include instructions pertaining to **aliens** who were living among them. He not only reminded His people of their own past slavery, but also impressed on them to care for the strangers living in their midst and treat them as they themselves would want to be treated:

*“He defends the cause of the fatherless and the widow, and **loves the alien**, giving him food and clothing. And **you are to love those who are aliens**, for you yourselves were aliens in Egypt”* (Deuteronomy 10:18,19).

*“Do not go over your vineyard a second time or pick up the grapes that have fallen. **Leave them for the poor and the alien**. I am the LORD your God”* (Leviticus 19:10);

*“**The alien living with you must be treated as one of your native-born. Love him as yourself**, for you were aliens in Egypt. I am the LORD your God”* (Leviticus 19:34).

It's evident from European Christian history that reaching the lost was a nominal effort at best. Missionaries set up *salt block* mission stations much like the Romans had established insular fortifications in pagan lands. That the Gospel actually spread throughout Europe was more an *act of God* rather than missionary work. How did He do this? Various unreached heathen tribes conquered Christian tribes and peoples and thus were exposed to the Gospel.

We make this point because today throughout Europe and the US, God is bringing strangers from many lands—people we failed to adequately reach because of our inadequate *salt block* mission efforts. For self-identified representatives of Christ to brand some of these

sojourners among us as “illegal aliens” does a great disservice to God's commands. That kind of prejudice discredits human beings of diverse races and cultures who are made in His image and for whom our Lord sacrificed Himself.

Dare we *refuse* to come alongside the strangers He's bringing here through His mercy and seek to be salt that permeates? Then be warned that our Lord may respond as He did with the Jewish people who resisted His purpose:

“Therefore I tell you that the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people who will produce its fruit” (Matthew 21:43; and revisit on p.1 our paraphrase of Matthew 28:18-20).

These truths rest on what our Father told us to call the “**Hebraic Restoration.**” Its roots are found in the Patriarch Abraham, the man God called out not only to live as a sojourner on earth but also to receive His evangelistic goal:

*“The Scripture foresaw that God would justify the Gentiles by trust, and **announced the gospel in advance to Abraham: ‘All nations will be blessed through you’**”* (Galatians 3:8).

Abraham's descendants, both the Jewish people and all those who belong to Jesus (Romans 4:16), have been given the same *permeating purpose*: to share the saving truth of our Lord with everyone we encounter. That which unbelieving Jewish people failed to do has been entrusted to Christians for 2,000 years. Yet still billions around the world have never even heard of our Lord Jesus.

- The United States and Europe have been deemed “Post-Christian,” with a US biblical literacy rate of 4%. How does this change your life, your goals, His purpose for you?
- Have you been attending a religious *salt block* so you can keep living as a *salt block* too?

- If Jesus couldn't commend you now for being the "salt of the earth," what will be His response to you at the Judgment Throne?

A Life That's Lived To Bring Salvation To Others Is A Life That's Truly Lived For Jesus As Lord Of Your Life!

*"For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever trusts in Him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but to **save the world through Him**" (John 3:16,17).*

The sacrifice of Jesus on the cross brought about a New Covenant with certain responsibilities that replaced the Old Covenant. Yet a *continuum* dwells within both covenants: our God wants *the world to know* about Him, His redemptive plan in Jesus, and the wisdom of His Word. No one who claims to belong to Him is excused from this responsibility! Paul makes this abundantly clear:

*"Now to Him who is able to establish you by my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery hidden for long ages past, but now revealed and made known through the prophetic writings by the command of the eternal God, so that **all nations might trust in and obey Him**—to the only wise God be glory forever through Jesus Christ! Amen" (Romans 16:25-27).*

Because of their rebellion our heavenly Father took this responsibility from the Israelites and gave it to the followers of Jesus. Both the Israelites and Christians have fallen far short, so God brought aliens to them or made them captive to aliens. Either way, *He'll make Himself known* throughout the world:

*"After this I looked and there before me was a **great multitude** that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and lan-*

guage, standing before the throne and in front of the Lamb" (Revelation 7:9).

*"It will be good for that servant whose **master finds him [acting faithfully] when he returns**" (Matthew 24:46).*

In Matthew chapter 24 our Lord cites certain signs that will precede His return and the end of this age. He ends His discourse with the parable of the faithful and unfaithful servants (vv. 24:44-51).

You are called to the responsibility to live in the Lordship of Jesus •to permeate the people you encounter with knowledge about Him •and to disciple them in truths He wants them to live by. Will He commend those who are *granular salt* in the world, and reprove those who live isolated in a *salt box*?

Please prayerfully consider the Lordship of Jesus in your own life. Can anyone attest that you lovingly and obediently *carry out His will* on earth? The Final Judgment will find those who'll be thrown into the fiery furnace with weeping and gnashing of teeth (Matthew 13:41,42). But others will *"shine like the sun in the Kingdom of their Father. He who has ears, let him hear"* (Matthew 13:43).

In Your Neighborhood Would A Fellowship Of Homes Grounded On Righteousness And Load-bearing Relationships Help You Be Permeating Salt Granules Who Disciple Your Neighbors?



Would You Then Be Better Able To "Love your neighbor as yourself" (Luke 10:27)?