

## GOD'S ANTIDOTE TO DECAY & DARKNESS

July 6, 2014 Matthew 5:13-16 by Bob Branch  
The Truly Liberated Life, Part 7

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**MAIN IDEA:** God's antidote to the decay and darkness in this world is you... is us! You are Salt of the earth and Light in this world.

"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.

"You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. 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. In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven. **Matthew 5:13-16**

God uses **ORDINARY** people to accomplish extraordinary things.

1. Jesus describes the **CONDITION** of the world left to itself.

The world left to itself is in a state of **DECAY**.

**Ephesians 2:1-3; 4:19** "having lost all sensitivity..."

The world left to itself is in **DARKNESS**.

"The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it." **John 1:5**

2. The **ROLE** the Gospelized are to play in the world

We are **SALT**...

Preserves...

Brings out flavor...

Creates thirst...

We are **LIGHT**...

Drive away darkness...

Reveals the way...

Helps to see...

"the people living in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned." **Matthew 4:16**

**Dimming & Desalinization dynamic:** *We can lose our saltiness and fail to shine*

3. The way the Gospelized are to **EXERCISE** that role.

How? Through **GOOD WORKS**...

**Q:** Where has God put you to arrest decay? To shine?

"Do everything readily and cheerfully—no bickering, no second-guessing allowed! Go out into the world uncorrupted, a breath of fresh air in this squalid and polluted society. Provide people with a glimpse of good living and of the living God. Carry the light-giving Message into the night" **Philippians 2:14-15** Message

Being Salt and Light is part of our essential **ESSENCE** and **IDENTITY**.

Both be and do.