

Introduction

School beginning

Last week we studied the Beatitudes which are a description of a Christian's characteristics. This week we are going to look at the purpose of a Christian and how to function in life.

Read Matthew 5:13-16

When you ask many Christians what is your purpose they will tell you "to glorify God in all you do."

- Although correct generally, this answer is first of all is vague and usually means that whatever you are doing in life, give the glory to God. The question is, "what are we to be doing in life?"
- Are we asking God to bless whatever we choose to do to spend our time on earth? Because that seems as though you are asking God to follow you around helping you to live morally.
- To truly live to give glory to God would be to walk in step with what God is doing, and thus order our lives to follow him.

This passage gives us a general picture of the purpose of Christians and how they are to function in life.

- What we find both in the beatitude and here is that we are to live in immersed in the world but be otherworldly minded. IN OTHER WORDS, LIVE A LIFE THAT POINTS TO HEAVEN.

As we read this passage we see by implication that the world has two negative characteristics

- Decay (rotting meat) and darkness (blindness)

Jesus tells us that Christians, by nature and character, are made by God to act a salt and light.

1. CHRISTIANS (SALT) function in two ways that correspond to the world's problems**a. Christians are a preservative to a world in decay**

- Key to understand that salt is different than the meat
- The salt must be rubbed into the meat to be effective, can't be on separate shelves.

b. Christians provide flavor and seasoning to blandness

- Life without Christ and the hope of becoming glorified is an empty bland existence requires stimulants
- For this reason, people crave pleasure, entertainment, adrenaline rushes, accomplishments, popularity (having name called) to spice up bland
- This is no different than a drug addict using craving drugs and referring to us a regular life. Just like real drugs, cultural spice isn't lasting or filling.

ILL. – Parties in HS with drinking Why were they there?**2. Like salt, Christians, and only Christians offer light into the darkness of the world.**

- The world for all of its achievements in knowledge and science are completely unable to bring an ultimate understanding to anything. Life, death, eternity, creation, existence, the heart of man, good or evil.

ILL – Think of total darkness, from the hurricanes, with out my flashlight I couldn't even walk dog.

- It is here Christians shine the light of understanding into their darkness, Christians or Charist people can do this,

ILL – You are like the moon shining reflecting the Sun, except you are actually a partaker of the divine nature with true light shining from you.

ILL – Attending parties with people approaching me crying for help, asking how can I do what I do? What is the light we shine? It is the light of explanation of their world. Showing how their story fits into the grand story of God moving to redeem the world and sinners through his Son Jesus.