**Salt and Light (Matthew 5:13-16)**

 Our value (as human beings) comes from God – because He calls us salt and light. Greetings to all of you on this Lord’s Day, as we talk about an important topic taken from the Sermon on the Mount today, which is our value. One of the primary spiritual/psychological issues of mankind has been our self-worth. Just what is this life, anyway? What is a human being supposed to do? Why do we live? And what good are the things a person has done? We find the answers to these questions in the words of Jesus, taken from His teachings. Therefore, today we are going to discuss the value of a human being. Again, I stress, that our value as human beings comes from God, and that especially from His Word. Let’s speak, then, about this in more detail…

 Our value comes from God’s Word, because we are His people through Christ. Jesus’ Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5-7) is known in certain circles as the Constitution of Christianity. Within it, the Lord touches upon many aspects of life, especially taking into consideration the difficult psychological and political situation of the people around him. Within the passage, we see the same truth repeated (for emphasis). What Jesus was saying in different ways was one and the same. His followers are the salt for this world – this earth. They bring the “flavor”; they heal the “wounds”; they prevent decay. His followers are like a city on a hill – like a center of activity where life happens, though it was tougher to build in such places back in those days. They are like the city that is visible and cannot be hidden. His followers are also a light, (torch or lamp) for the world. They cannot hide themselves from the unbelieving populations. They cannot hide their life under a bowl or a pot of some sort. Jesus followers are a people that live and reflect their light to all people.

 The story is told of a little girl who was shivering her way along a main street in a great city. Seeing the beautiful lights of a church building and hearing the music coming from within, she went in and warmed herself as she listened. The preacher's text was, "I am the light of the world." At the close of the service, she went to the minister and said, "Did you say you are the light of the world, sir?" The minister replied, "No, dear child. Christ is the light of the world, and I am one of the lights." The little lass looked at him for a moment, and then solemnly said, "Well, sir, I wish you would come down and hang out in our alley, 'cause it's awful dark down there!" Christians are, indeed, as the Master said, "the light of the world." As one of those lights, are you "hanging out" in some dark alley?

 And that, dearly beloved, is the reflection of our value. We have value in the eyes of the Lord. We are neither animals with no salvation, or a part of nature that has no spirit or reasoning capability, such as the wind or water. We are not only human beings, but the people of God. We are the followers of Christ – the people of salvation, light and truth! Our lives have meaning! And we will find that meaning in fulfilling our God-given assignment! Our main job is to be who the Lord has called us to be. God will already be taking care of the fruit – but we as salt and light are valuable, and our life has a definite purpose.

 Therefore, let’s always remember the following words: “*You are the light of the world – a city set on a hill… A lamp is not lit and put under a basket…”*

 We are salt, a city, and light. May these clarify our life-direction.

 Our value as human beings comes from the Word of God – because we are His people through Christ; because He has called us salt and light. The Lord Bless you all. Amen.