**Work That Shows**

***13****“You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything except to be thrown out and trampled under people's feet.*

***14****“You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden.****15****Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house.****16****In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven. (Matthew 5:13-16, ESV)*

 Being salt and light means to work with the purpose of bearing fruit for the Lord. On the day before Labor Day, it is important to look at what the Lord thinks about work, especially for those who are devoted to Him. We know that God has given work from the very beginning as one of the primary tasks for Adam to accomplish. We also know that six days of the week were slated for working for the people of God. Within Jesus’ teachings, however, that work is presented to us believers in a unique way. God through His Word is telling us that our work needs to be influential or effective, just as salt and light are. Therefore, today we’re going to talk about that call on our lives as Christians. Again, our theme for today is that being salt and light means to work with bearing Godly fruit as a goal. So, we are now going to talk about the call to work for each Christian.

 For a believer, work is a calling, which, when understood correctly, bears much fruit. Jesus had just gotten done declaring the Beatitudes as an encouraging word and even a definition of the spiritual lives of those sitting around Him learning from Him. In connection with all those qualities mentioned just prior to the passage for today, Jesus tells us that work was important for the Christian through two illustrations: First, a Christian is the salt of the earth (or land). In those days, salt was primarily used to preserve food much more than to give it taste. Yes, it is true that if salt loses its taste, that it is useless in its function, but if we think about the fact that salt was used to preserve food, then its “taste” was the strength of its composition. Sometimes, when salt was mixed with other elements, its preserving power was weakened. So, when salt was not being used to preserve food, it became useless. In other words, if the believer was not going to be salt to other people and stop the “spoiling” of human morality, then the believer’s “faith” was going to be useless and ignored by the masses.

 In the same vein, the light of the world (within this passage) was the group of those who listened to Jesus, who carried Christ everywhere they went. If they were not reflecting light from within them, which was nothing other than Christ’s teachings, and if their faith was not showing outwardly (without ostentation and showing off), then they would not be able to fulfill the task of stopping moral and spiritual darkness in its tracks and drive it away from peoples’ minds.

 Thinking about light, we know that with God’s created light, all of nature experiences life and peace. Imagine for a moment that the sun stopped its work… In a short time, almost all plant life would die, and eventually our whole world would meet the same fate.

 Therefore, it is extremely important for us to live and to work in a fruitful manner. Our ministries as believers are calls to us to drive away darkness and to put a stop to the moral corruption and decay and to clean it up.

Today, God is calling us to be salt to clean up and preserve the world – today we are called to be light, having Christ within us, so that those who are confused would find the way to Jesus.

May God help us to have fruitful ministries, and may our strength come from Him, who has the true preserving and illuminating ability. May the Lord Bless You All. Amen.