

INTRO ("Salt & Light Annual Series)

2 Functional Illustrations of SALT & LIGHT Matt 5:13-16

The Point here is to Illustrate Their Intended EFFECT On the Surrounding Environment.

- ! **Salt's Use & Effect** (a) FLAVORING (taste of God) (b) PRESERVATIVE from decay – It was RUBBED on Meat to Impede the Decaying Process (impediment of sins effect)
- ! **Light's Use & Effect** (a) Provides an ABILITY TO SEE CERTAIN THINGS (about life, illuminating their confusion) (b) DISBURSES the DARKNESS

NOTE: The EVERYDAY Use and Place of these Chosen Illustrations — If we are Salt & Light we're to be Easily Found in People's Lives... **"w/i ARM'S REACH"**

Conclusion: **God intends to Accomplish His Sovereign Will THROUGH His People**

- God Sovereignly Ordains that Salt have Certain Properties & Effects. God Sovereignly Ordains that Light Have Certain Physical Characteristics & Effects
 - “*God cooperates with created things in every action, directing their distinctive properties to cause them to act as they do. ... For any of these events (rain and snow, grass growing, sun and stars, the feeding of animals,) we could give a completely satisfactory 'natural' explanation. A botanist can detail the factors that cause grass to grow, such as sun, moisture, temperature, nutrients in the soil, etc. Yet Scripture says that God causes the grass to grow. A meteorologist can give a complete explanation of factors that cause rain (humidity, temperature, atmospheric pressure, etc.). Yet the Scripture says that God causes the rain. This shows us that it is incorrect for us to reason that if we know the 'natural' cause of something in this world, then God did not cause it. ... The doctrine of concurrence affirms that God directs, and works through, the distinctive properties of each created thing, so that these things themselves bring about the results that we see. In this way it is possible to affirm that in one sense events are fully (100 percent) caused by God and fully (100 percent) caused by the creature as well.*” **Wayne Grudem**, “Systematic Theology”, p. 317, 319

- It is Because I am Convinced of Salt's Qualities & Light's Characteristics that I Make Use of Them!
 - >> Convinced that God has Given His People & The Activities of Evangelism Certain Characteristics to Bring about an Effect— We Venture Out!!

Rom 10:9-15

Human Responsibility Highlights

- " **The Responsibility of the Lost:** v. 11-13 "Everyone who believes" ... "all who call on Him" ... "everyone who calls"
- " **The Responsibility of the Church:** v. 14-15 to call for salvation, one must believe to believe, one must hear ... to hear one must tell them

I. God's Ordained Means of Accomplishing His Evangelism Through Disciples

Sovereign Will

! **Paul Motivated by Sovereignty** (Rom 8 & 9 emphasis) (Fatalism is not the fruit of Seeing Sovereignty)

2 Tim 2:8-10 Remember Jesus Christ, risen from the dead, descendant of David, according to my gospel, 9 for which I suffer hardship even to imprisonment as a criminal; but the word of God is not imprisoned. 10 For this reason I endure all things for the sake of those who are chosen, so that they also may obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus and with it eternal glory.

Col 1:24-29 Now I rejoice in my sufferings for your sake, and in my flesh I do my share on behalf of His body, which is the church, in filling up what is lacking in Christ's afflictions. 25 Of this church I was made a minister according to the stewardship from God bestowed on me for your benefit, so that I might fully carry out the preaching of the word of God, 26 that is, the mystery which has been hidden from the past ages and generations, but has now been manifested to His saints, 27 to whom God willed to make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory. 28 We proclaim Him, admonishing every man and teaching every man with all wisdom, so that we may present every man complete in Christ. 29 For this purpose also I labor, striving according to His power, which mightily works within me.

Knowledge of God's Predestining & Electing Produced: "Suffering hardship" ... "enduring all things" "suffering for your sake"

"proclaiming, admonishing, and teaching every man" "laboring and striving"

— NOT Fatalistic Indifference!

! **William Carey's Story** Biographical Sketch from "101 Christians Everyone Should Know"

"Carey's book plus his own amazing 40-year career in India have immortalized him as the "father of modern missions." And the reason that I point out his connection with Edwards and Brainerd is to show that the great era of modern missions was born in the soil of sovereign grace. It was born in the hearts of men and women who believed in the doctrines of unconditional election and predestination Besides the Bible there probably are no missionary documents that are more influential than Brainerd's LIFE AND DIARY and Carey's ENQUIRY. And both of them come from what we can call "sovereign grace" men. And what's even more interesting is that behind each of these young men stood great, older pastors who were known for their passionate commitment to the sovereignty of God in salvation, and who loved and encouraged the two young missionaries. Behind Brainerd stood the massive theologian and pastor Jonathan Edwards, who spent the last eight years of his own life writing and ministering among the Indians of western Massachusetts. And behind Carey stood the great Andrew Fuller, who took part in Carey's ordination and helped form the Baptist Missionary Society that sent him out. Carey called him the faithful "rope-holder." Both Edwards and Fuller loved and lived the doctrines of sovereign grace.

.... So what I want you to see is that primary impulses of the modern missionary movement came from the hearts of people who were emphatically doctrinal in their orientation to Scripture, and who had been captivated by the sovereignty of God's grace.

.... John Alexander, a former president of Inter-Varsity said in a message at Urbana 67, "At the beginning of my missionary career I said that if predestination were true I could not be a missionary. Now after 20 years of struggling with the hardness of the human heart, I say I could never be a missionary unless I believed in the doctrine of predestination." It gives hope that Christ most certainly has a people among the nations.

John Piper, "I Have Other Sheep That Are Not of This Fold"

Might it be that a biblical understanding and mindful awareness of this doctrine of God's Sovereignty would release us into evangelistic endeavors?

“ [from David Brainerd's Diary]— CROSSWEEKSUNG, in New Jersey, June, 1745
June 28. The Indians being now gathered, a considerable number of them, from their several and distant habitations, requested me to preach twice a day to them, being desirous to hear as much as they possibly could while I was with them. I cheerfully complied with their motion, and could not but admire the goodness of God, who, I was persuaded, had inclined them thus to inquire after the way of salvation. that God may in such a manner bless the means I have used with Indians in other places, where there is as yet no appearance of it. If so, may his name have the glory of it; for I have learned by experience that he only can open the ear, engage the attention, and incline the heart of poor benighted, prejudiced pagans to receive instruction. ” (from Works of Jonathan Edwards, volume 2)

Let us Examine Honestly the Scriptures, as well as Church History, before we arrive at an Uninformed Conclusion that the Doctrines of Sovereign Grace Produce Inactivity in Prayer or Evangelism.

II. Our Response – Going and Sending

(A) Going ... the call of every disciple is to be a disciple-maker — Matt 28:18-19 “Go therefore...”

(NOTE: “Going” entails getting out of your comfortable/familiar life setting and ministry realm. It involves experiencing the Necessity of Faith to pull of your role and activities)

Accessible “Going Opportunities”:

! **Alpha**

" Inviting People within Your Sphere of Influence

" Serving (Table Leaders, greeters, servers, set-up, children's ministry)

! **Mercy Ministry**

! **Parenting** - Daily “Alpha Tables” in your own home ... daily evangelism activities toward them daily discipleship training (2Tim 3:16) “Doing Life” together the way Jesus did with His disciples

— WARNING: Parents must resist the tendency to separate discipleship from parenting!! (as though Alpha or missions work is the work of a disciple, and parenting is a disruption to that)

“ *No one can, without renouncing the world, in the most literal sense, observe my method; and there are few, if any, that would entirely devote above twenty years of the prime of*

life in hopes to save the souls of their children, which they think may be saved without so much ado; for that was my principal intention, however unskillfully and unsuccessfully managed.” Susanna Wesley, Biblical Manhood & Womanhood, p. 371

“ My mother was the source from which I derived the guiding principles of my life. I learned more about Christianity from my mother than from all the theologians of England.” John Wesley, Heartstrings of Laughter & Love

– At some point Peter, Paul, John Wesley, etc., are somebody's son and Hannah, Esther, and Susanna Wesley are somebodies daughter. — “Pyramid Power” - How Many Lives did Susanna Wesley touch?

- ! **Hospitality Ministry** – Inviting People Into Your Life (not just attending Sunday Morning Sporadically ... not just attending CG's ... but pursuing people of your own initiative and invitation)

(B) Sending ... the call of every disciple to support the gospel venture

2Co 8:1-5

Accessible Support Places:

- ! **Prayer/Intercession**
 - " Prayer for the Church Leadership
 - " Prayer for Laborers
 - " Prayer for Various Ministry Endeavors (CG's, Alpha, Rancho 3M, Next Gen, Youth, Children's, etc.)

- ! **Financial Support**
 - " Local Church Tithe
 - " Oppty's to Expand the Scope of the Work (those who gave in the past opened the door for the growth of the last few years)
 - " Alpha Expenses
 - " Orphanage Support