

Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ! In this edition we have an article provided by Stephen Edson titled, "Salt."

As always, I'm extending an invitation for submissions to be published in The Gospel Notes Newsletter (TGNN). Additionally, if you have a subject or a question that you would like to have covered in a future edition of TGNN, feel free to send me a note and I'll do my best to address it.

The primary criteria for inclusion of articles are these:

1. It should be oriented towards the Gospel of Jesus Christ.
2. It should use the scriptures as a source of information.
3. It should include the references for any quoted 3rd party sources.
4. It should not be political.

If you have a testimony to share, please send that to me and let me know if you would like it to be included in a future edition of the newsletter. Please keep in mind the four criteria listed above where applicable.

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<https://thechurchofjesuschrist.info/TheGospelNotesNewsletter>

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The current preaching schedule for the Springfield, Missouri Restoration Branch can be accessed at the following link:

https://thechurchofjesuschrist.info/Resources/Service_Schedule.php

New Item! <https://thechurchofjesuschrist.info/Resources/ages-of-creation.png>

If you do not wish to receive the newsletter, please let me know. All responses to me will be treated confidentially unless you tell me otherwise.

Salt

by Stephen Edson

Mark 9

47 It is better for thee to enter into the kingdom of God, with one eye, than having two eyes to be cast into hell fire.

48 For it is better that thyself should be saved, than to be cast into hell with thy brother, where their worm dieth not, and where the fire is not quenched.

49 For every one shall be salted with fire; and every sacrifice shall be salted with salt; but the salt must be good.

50 For if the salt have lost his saltness, wherewith will ye season it? (the sacrifice) therefore it must needs be that ye have salt in yourselves, and have peace one with another.

Matthew 5

15 Verily, verily, I say unto you, I give unto you to be the salt of the earth; but if the salt shall lose its savor, wherewith shall the earth be salted? the salt shall thenceforth be good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men. (Also found in 3 Nephi 5:60)

Luke 14

35 Then certain of them came to him saying, Good Master, we have Moses and the prophets, and whosoever shall live by them, shall he not have life?

36 And Jesus answered, saying, Ye know not Moses, neither the prophets; for if ye had known them, ye would have believed on me; for to this intent they were written. For I am sent that ye might have life. Therefore I will liken it unto salt which is good;

37 But if the salt had lost its savor, wherewith shall it be seasoned?

38 It is neither fit for the land, nor yet for the dung hill; men cast it out. He who hath ears to hear, let him hear. These things he said, signifying that which was written, verily must all be fulfilled.

Colossians 4

6 Let your speech be always with grace, seasoned with salt, that ye may know how ye ought to answer every man.

D&C Section 98

5k When men are called unto mine everlasting gospel, and covenant with an everlasting covenant, they are accounted as the salt of the earth, and the savor of men. They are called to be the savor of men.

5l Therefore, if that salt of the earth lose its savor, behold, it is thenceforth good for nothing, only to be cast out and trodden under the feet of men.

Salt is an amazing creation. There is probably no other mineral on Earth which has been found to be more versatile in its uses than salt. In the ancient world, its value was considered to be on par with that of gold. During certain historical periods in parts of North Africa, it was even used as currency, such was its importance. From table salt to Epsom salts and everything in between, all of the products from this mineral are widely used in everyday life for extremely important purposes. This just begins to scratch the surface of

why Jesus charged us with being the “salt of the earth” and warned us to not lose our “savor”. Yet, while the above is a commonly repeated phrase among Christians, do we really understand what this means? We need to dig a little deeper to find the greater meaning and message behind this comparison.

Salt is necessary for life. Every living organism must maintain a healthy level of sodium within its system, no matter by what means they extract it from their environment. For humans, we obviously consume most of our required salt by adding it to our daily diet. This is, of course, probably the use for salt that initially springs to mind when we reflect upon its attributes. In order to add a certain *je ne sais quoi* to a bevy of recipes, what is one of the first things we try? Good chance, it is adding salt. Yet, it is noteworthy that we almost never eat salt by itself. More than a few grains on its own is too...well, salty. However, when added to our regular meals as a garnish, it properly boosts the flavor of the dish, making it better and more savory than before. This is analogous to how we should act as servants for God. We do not want to detract from God and His word as we witness to others. The “meat”, if you will, of the gospel should be the main focus, which means our own “flavoring” has to work with it and not be overwhelming, such that we become a distraction. In this way, it is somewhat akin to the Scriptures, particularly the writings of Paul, that call us to be a part of the body of Christ. We each have our own gifts and talents, with individually unique perspectives, but we do not need to stick out unnecessarily, causing attention to be brought upon ourselves and not God. We have to submit ourselves to simply being the “added flavor” to His work.

Another of salt’s most useful functions is as a healing and cleansing agent. The common expression, “Pour salt on the wound,” originally comes from its medicinal qualities. While it stings when first applied, it aids in the healing process, particularly being helpful with infections, as it draws out moisture. There are really two different, but similar ways that this relates to our spiritual lives. The ultimate healing and cleansing that we can experience in life is through the infinite and eternal sacrifice of Jesus Christ, and we are instructed elsewhere (more specifically for members of the priesthood) to preach nothing but repentance and baptism. These acts are the very definition of cleansing and, in a sense, healing. Yet, once we are cleansed and healed from our sins, we are then told to help bring others to this healing and cleansing. So, while we may not be the ones directly responsible for it, through the grace of God, we can be a party to it.

Now, there are plenty more uses for salt. Back before the days of refrigeration, one of the chief ways to preserve meat was to apply a generous portion of salt to it. This allowed the meat to be kept for a much longer period before it spoiled. In more modern times, salt’s ability to draw moisture has been exploited in melting icy sidewalks and roadways during severe winter weather. Also, besides being helpful in cleaning out bodily wounds, salt can be used in cleaning household items, too. Even beyond these mentioned, there are yet more uses, each certainly with its own unique spiritual significance. It is not necessary to belabor the point, however.

In all of these different facets of salt, we see a common pattern emerge. All of them are encouragements for faithful believers to become tools in the hand of Divine Providence. It is only through willing submission, followed by obedience, that we can truly become the “salt of the earth”. Yet, perhaps, above all else, where we started is the most important reason that Jesus called us to be like salt. Since mankind has discovered its usefulness, salt has always been a highly valued commodity. Thus are we in the eyes of the Lord. He compares us to something of great worth, because we are of great worth to Him. No matter how much we value any earthly thing, it is infinitesimal in comparison to the love for which our Creator has for us. He only asks that we try to return the favor, if you will, and love Him back as much as we are capable in our fleshly limitations.

Stay savory, my friends!