

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

1. Salt is a preservative and seasoning. In what sense do our lives serve this purpose?
2. When we let our light shine before men, who do they glorify?
3. How can we effectively witness for Christ?
4. What is perhaps the greatest blessing in witnessing for the Lord?
5. How can we learn to hate the sin, but love the sinner?

SUMMARY:

Witnessing for Christ!...these three words lay before us our responsibility as Christians. This does not apply just to ministers or teachers, but to each member! How are we to witness? By being a good influence; by living our lives in such a way that men can see our uprightness and honesty and desire to walk in the same way; by putting off the things of the world, the pride of life (1 John 2:15-16); by letting the love of God radiate from us even so much that our faces will shine; by doing good works which in turn will cause men to glorify God, and by having a zeal for lost souls, desiring that all men may be saved. Let us evaluate our own lives by the Bible's measuring stick to see how much of a zeal we have for the Lord.

NOTES:

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Bible Lesson #14

September 30, 2007

Third Quarter

WITNESSING FOR CHRIST

LESSON TEXT: *Matthew 5:13-16; Luke 15:1-7*

LESSON SETTING: Christ's preaching using parables.

TIME: The New Testament was written in the first century.

I. THE SALT OF THE EARTH. Matthew 5:13

- A. Salt preserves. Mark 9:50
- B. A good influence. 1 Corinthians 7:16; 1 Thessalonians 1:8; Hebrews 11:4

II. THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD. Matthew 5:14-16

- A. Spiritual lights (vs. 14) Acts 13:47
- B. Shining lights (vs. 15, 16) Daniel 12:3; John 5:35; 2 Corinthians 3:18
- C. Good works (vs. 16) Titus 2:7; James 2:17-18; 1 Peter 2:12

III. THE JOY OF WITNESSING. Luke 15:1-7

- A. Zeal for souls (vs. 4) Ecclesiastes 9:10; John 4:35; 1 Corinthians 9:22; 14:12
- B. Joy in soul-winning (vs. 5) Psalm 51:12, 13; 126:6; John 4:36

GOLDEN TEXT: *YE ARE THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD. A CITY THAT IS SET ON AN HILL CANNOT BE HID.* Matthew 5:14

NEXT SUNDAY'S LESSON: Matthew 1:1-25

SUPPLEMENTAL REFERENCES: Psalm 112:1-10; Isaiah 7:10-16

QUARTERLY THEME: The Bible and The Christian Life

TOPIC: THE ANNOUNCEMENT TO JOSEPH

INTRODUCTION:

After Adam and Eve had sinned and fallen from the presence of God, He foretold a way of reinstatement into close communion with Him. Generations had passed during which time this promise was reaffirmed with many prophesies. Now the time had come for its fulfillment and Mary, Joseph's espoused wife, was chosen as the vessel through whom this was to be accomplished. It was necessary that Joseph should be prepared for this event also, so that He would understand the working of the Spirit. The very situation, according to man's thinking, was not very acceptable, so God deemed it necessary to speak to Joseph through an angel. Joseph believed the words of the angel and obeyed God. This announcement to Joseph revealed God's wonderful plan of redemption now being fulfilled. Joseph's responsibility was to nurture Jesus as his own son until the time when Jesus would begin His work for the Father in Heaven. Because of Joseph's obedience, we have a beautiful story of Jesus' childhood, but even more important, we have the plan of salvation prepared for as many as turn to the Lord as Savior and are obedient in all points of God's plan.

CENTRAL TRUTH: Jesus is the supernaturally conceived, virgin-born Son of God.

GOLDEN TEXT: *BEHOLD A VIRGIN SHALL BE WITH CHILD AND SHALL BRING FORTH A SON, AND THEY SHALL CALL HIS NAME EMMANUEL.*
Matthew 1:23

How wonderful this event really was, and still is yet today, for it is the promise of God of a wonderful Savior who is able to save us from our sins. The work of our Lord was, and is, to bring men and women into living fellowship with God. How different this story might have been if Mary or Joseph had failed to be so obedient to God's call or had demanded a full explanation before yielding to the call. Truly their experience should be a lesson to us that we should not be as demanding as we often are for an evidence of what God's will is in our lives or in the direction His Word would lead us. How great might be our blessings if we in humility obey Him and yield ourselves to him instead of seeing how much of the world we can retain and still be His disciples.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF October 1 - 7

- M. The Announcement to Israel. Isaiah 9:1-17
- T. *The Announcement to Joseph. Matthew 1:1-25
- W. The Announcement to the World. Matthew 3:11-17
- T. The Announcement to the Shepherds. Luke 2:8-20
- F. The Announcement to Simeon. Luke 2:25-35
- S. The Announcement to Doctors. Luke 2:41-47
- S. The Announcement to John's Disciples. John 1:26-34