

March 12, 2017

## The Purpose of Persecution (2)

**Matthew 5:13-19**

### **Salt & Light** (v. 13-16)

*v. 13 You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt has become tasteless, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled under foot by men...*

- Salt protected and preserved food and counteracted or resisted corruption and decay.
- As God's salt, we are to be constantly on guard to protect our saltiness from the corruption of the world.

*v. 14-16 "You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden; 15 nor does anyone light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. 16 "Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven..."*

- Now that we are in Christ, we *are* the light of the world.

*John 9:5 Jesus said that ...while I am in the world, I am the Light of the world...*

- In Jesus, Light is intrinsic to His nature, but in us Life is His gift.
- Jesus, the Light, reminds us of the light of the Menorah which illuminated the Bread of the Presence.

*Ex 25:31* Make a lampstand of pure gold and hammer it out, base and shaft..

*Ex 25:37* Then make its seven lamps and set them up on it so that they light the space in front of it ...

*Ex 40:24* He placed the lampstand in the Tent of Meeting opposite the table on the south side of the tabernacle..

- In the Incarnation, Jesus was God's Menorah Who illumined the Father.

*John 14:9* ...he who has seen Me has seen the Father...

- We are to illumine the Christ to the world (**Eph. 4:1-3**).

*2 Cor 4:6* For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ

*Phil 2:14-16* Do all things without grumbling or questioning, 15 that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world...

- Sin has the potential of shrouding God's Light in our lives.

## Fulfilling the Law (v. 17-20)

**v. 17-18** *Do not think that I came to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I did not come to abolish but to fulfill. 18 "For truly I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not the smallest letter or stroke shall pass from the Law until all is accomplished*

- Jesus is the Law Giver and the Law Keeper (**Col. 2:17**)—through His absolute obedience to the will of God even to the cost of His own life (**Phil. 2:8**).

**Heb.1:3** *...exact image of [the Father's] nature...*

- The Law is not a list of do's and don't's but the revelation of the very nature and character of God's Triune Being.
- Jesus is the True Light (**John 1:9**) Who illumines God's presence by *imaging* His Triune nature and character in keeping with **Gen. 1:26-28**.

**Luke 10:22** *...no one knows who the Son is except the Father, and who the Father is except the Son...*

- This is why Adam's refusal was so destructive and why Jesus had to be the Son of God in order to fulfill the Law by disclosing the Father through His perfect obedience to the Father's will.

**v. 19** *Whoever then annuls one of the least of these commandments, and teaches others to do the same, shall be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever keeps and teaches them, he shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven*

- Because of the profundity of the Law, Jesus warns that anyone whose lifestyle or teaching annuls the Law will be least in His Kingdom but those who keep the Law will be great.