**Spiritual Growth Questions for June 25th, 2023**

**Opening Questions:**

1. What sermon points stood out to you today?
2. In your experience, what are good examples of the church being salt (preservation)?
3. In your experience, what are good examples of the church being light (comfort and confrontation)?

**For Deeper Study:**

1. **Read James 2:14-26.** People often raise the question of an apparent contradiction between Paul's emphasis upon faith and James' emphasis upon works; how do you reconcile the two ideas?
2. **Read the Titus passages of 1:16; 2:7; 2:14; 3:1; 3:8; 3:14.** Have you noticed this emphasis upon works before? Within Titus, do you see a tension between works and faith as is often highlighted?
3. **Read the following passages:** 1 Peter 1:17; Matthew 16:27; Psalm 62:12; Proverbs 24:12; Romans 2:6; 2 Corinthians 5:10; Colossians 3:25; Revelation 2:23.
What do they have in common? Have you noticed all these verses on judgment before? Again, do you see a tension here between faith and works?

**Prayer:** Lord, please help me to live as light and salt in this world today. Help me to tell the truth in love and with humility, and yet to also comfort where consolation is needed. Help me to do the good works You have commanded us to do. Amen.

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**Cities and Baskets**

 **June 25th, 2023, Pastor Paul Sellman**

*Pastor Paul has a startling announcement to make thanks to Jesus, and it is related to all believers.*

**A) INTRODUCTION**

**B) THE TEXTS**

Titus 3:5-8 He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit, 6 whom He poured out upon us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior,

7 so that being justified by His grace we would be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life. 8 This is a trustworthy statement; and concerning these things I want you to speak confidently, so that those who have believed God will be careful to engage in good deeds. These things are good and profitable for men.

Matt 5:13-16 "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 underfoot by men. 14 "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.

 **Notes**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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**Two Points to Emphasize: Salt & Light**

1) SALT: We don’t blame meat for going bad;

we should expect \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

2) LIGHT: Two Aspects: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ & \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

Comfort: A City on a Hill

Confrontation: We cannot be naive: Light is

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

**Isaiah 5:20:** *"Woe to those who call evil good and good, evil.*

*Who substitute darkness for light and light for darkness;*

*Who substitute bitter for sweet and sweet for bitter."*

***John 7:7*** *- "The world cannot hate you, but it hates Me because I testify of it, that its deeds are evil."*

**JOHN 3:19, 20:** *This is the judgment, that the Light has come into the world, and people loved the darkness rather than the Light, for their deeds were evil. For everyone who does evil hates the Light and does not come to the Light for fear that their deeds will be exposed.*

Basic truth of life: People don't like \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

 **Notes** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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**C) CONCLUSION**

One very simple point: we need to be out there and not just

talking about the Kingdom of God, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

**Ephesians 2:10** For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them.

**1 Peter 2:12** Keep your behavior excellent among the Gentiles, so that in the thing in which they slander you as evildoers, they may because of your good deeds, as they observe them, glorify God in the day of visitation.

**Survey of Titus:** 1:16; 2:7; 2:14; 3:1; 3:8; 3:14.

Do our four walls \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_?

**James 2:14-26**

**Notes**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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