

Salt That Has Lost Its Saltiness

Salt can be used to season or preserve food, but if it has lost its saltiness how can it be used?

Mark 9:50 [New King James] *“Salt is good, but if the salt loses its flavour, how will you season it? Have salt in yourselves, and have peace with one another.”*

How can salt lose its saltiness?

In ordinary Galilean life, in the days of Jesus Christ on earth, salt was very expensive and in practice it was mixed with other substances.

This was acceptable so long as the proportion of salt in the mixture was high enough. But if exposed to damp or some other reason the salt in the mixture was leached out, what was left was good for nothing.

Luke 14:34-35 [New King James] *“Salt is good; but if the salt has lost its flavour, how shall it be seasoned? It is neither fit for the land nor for the dunghill, but men throw it out. He who has ears to hear, let him hear!”*

The word translated “dunghill” is “köpria” meaning manure, so was of no use for the land at all.

Matthew 5:13 [New King James] *“You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt loses its flavour, how shall it be seasoned? It is then good for nothing but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot by men.”*

People would throw it out into the street.

Note Jesus addressed this to His disciples, “you are,” this implies that all Christians have a particular function to perform on earth, and if they fail to perform it, they might as well not exist, for all the good they can do.

In what respect Christians are to be salt is not specified, so the nature of what they do to be salt has to be obtained from what is physically known of the effect salt has.

Christians should have a preserving and purifying effect on other human beings and add zest to the life of the community in which they live.

The idea that a Christian life is insipid in any way should be a contradiction in terms.

How do we do this? –

Colossians 4:6 [New King James] *“Let your **speech** always be with **grace**, seasoned with salt, that you may know how you ought to answer each one.”*

We must remove all unsavoury talk or slanderous words.

We must be seen by others as living examples of the grace of the Creator God, examples which others are encouraged to follow.

Mark 9:49 [New King James] *“For everyone will be seasoned with fire, and every sacrifice will be seasoned with salt.”*

This statement is looking to the cereal offering of Leviticus 2:13 where every offering was salted with salt.

1 Peter 1:6-7 [New King James] *“In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials, that the genuineness of your faith, being much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honour, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ,”*

The fire of persecution will have a purifying or refining effect on a Christian’s life, as salt also has.

James 1:2-4 [New King James] *“My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience. But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing.”*

Trials in our life as Christians cause our faith in God to be strengthened and be cleansed and so become a more acceptable offering to the eternal God.

The grain offering which was a voluntary offering that had salt added to it was to show honour and respect to the Creator God; it also acknowledged that all we have belongs to the Eternal God.

Jesus Christ was the perfect example of this as He gave all of Himself as the Son of Man to God the Father for the benefit of all humanity, [Leviticus 2:1-16].

Note all we offer to God must have salt added to it, [Leviticus 2:13]. This is how important our being pure “salt” in our community as well as our relationship with the Eternal God.