

PASS THE SALT.....PLEASE!

And, a little light!

- some thoughts on Jesus Christ's statements on salt

13-1-09, 41 pages

Jesus Christ made three simple statements in the New Covenant (or New Testament) linking salt to his disciples. This discussion looks at the linkage between salt and discipleship (being a follower of Jesus Christ as The LORD). Whilst simple in appearance, the statements are anything but simple in meaning!

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Romans 8:1, 14

INTRODUCTION

This is a long discussion, which has been shortened by adding much of the material into the appendices. It grew, and grew. As I meditated and meditated, dug and dug, I discovered nuggets of "Golden Words" (patterns of thinking) hidden in our King's Word on "salt". As a consequence, there are layers upon layers of meanings, layers upon layers of gold nuggets!

To get the most out of this discussion, may I suggest that you do two things:

First, ask the Holy Spirit to show you the truths, by His revelation [*Rhema*], which will help you on your own Calvary walk as you follow Jesus Christ. You could say something like this "Lord Jesus, show me by the gentle leading of the Holy Spirit the truths which will help me walk on your Calvary Road, so that I will put my trust in you more and more, and so that I may die to myself daily so that you will magnify yourself in Me, and my mind is renewed continuously to understand your thoughts, and your ways. Amen."

"Ask and you will receive"! **Matthew 7:7a**

"The letter kills but the Spirit gives life!" **2 Corinthians 3: 6**

"It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing. The words that I [Jesus] speak to you are spirit, and they are life." **John 6:63**

Listen to His Voice. We all need to – hear, loud and clear! "He calls His own sheep by name and leads them out". Jesus Christ's "sheep" will hear His voice, **John 10:, 3b,16**. Another way to hear is through His [translated] Word, which embrace His thoughts, His patterns of thinking.

Secondly, this is an invitation to dine with me. You accept this invitation by reading and thinking about what I have to say! Treat the contents as a smorgasbord where you can pick your own food and enjoy a meal or two at the Lord's table with me. It's time to get some real spiritual meat into our system, and not be milk-drinking (flesh/self reliant Christians!) **Psalm 104:27, 1 Corinthians 3:1-4**. We need to dine on "*every word which proceeds from the mouth of God*" **Matthew 4:4b**. Take your time. Savour each item, and be amazed by the beautiful fragrance, texture and flavours of each dish.

Truly, the Bible, as an acrostic means: “ **B**asic **I**nstructions **B**efore **L**eaving **E**arth! It is a Holy Bible. “Holy” implies that the 66 books contain God’s words, sanctified, set apart from all other words and books of men. He is the author of His books – men recorded His words for us to read (through translations). Let us take heed of His words and use them as we live our short lives on this earth! We are living in the completeness of the finished work of Calvary, of Jesus Christ, the risen Saviour, now seated at the right hand of God our Heavenly Father. He is seated because His work is finished! **Colossians 3:1** (Notice how Jesus stands to receive Stephen the first Christian martyr **Acts 7:56**).

Permit me to give a little warning. The Old Covenant has been replaced entirely by the New Covenant! We must live by the “New wine in New Wineskins” **Matthew 9:17**. When you read the Old Covenant, read it from the perspective of the New Covenant. Read and understand the information through the New Covenant sift, which is Jesus The Christ!

All knowledge, is consummated in the person of Jesus Christ, the one who lives in our very own temple (our body). Let Him magnify Himself in your temple, your body! **Read Colossians and Ephesians – the whole letters.**

1. THREE STATEMENTS BY JESUS CHRIST LINKING SALT TO HIS DISCIPLES

Here are the three statements, and a brief summary of the spiritual meanings.

1. “ **Have salt in yourselves**” **Mark 9:50**, Colossians 4:-6
2. “ You are **the salt of the earth** , but if the salt loses its flavour, how will it be seasoned? It is then good for nothing but to be thrown out and trampled under foot by men. You are **the light of the world**. A City that is set on a hill cannot be hidden” **Matthew 5:13-14**.
Mark 9: 50, Luke 14: 34-35,
3. “ **Everyone will be salted(seasoned) with fire, and every sacrifice will be seasoned with salt** ” **Mark 9:49**

2. DISCUSSION ON THE THREE STATEMENTS ON SALT BY JESUS CHRIST

1. " *Have salt in yourselves*" [Mark 9:50](#), [Colossians 4:-6](#)

How do we have salt in ourselves? This enjoins the mutual loyalty of a covenant relationship ([IDB 1981 p.167](#)), and as a health benefit to our bodies (this is discussed in depth in appendix 2).

Salt was the food preservative *par excellence* in biblical times. But it is its spiritual significance which is of paramount importance for our discussion. Salt was used in the **Old Covenant sacrificial system** as a sign of **permanence and absolute loyalty**. **The old sacrificial system is infused with salt, just as each Christian is a living sacrifice in the new *Covenant!** [Romans 12:1-2](#) (* see Definition of Covenant at end of this discussion)

Here is what a Rabbi thinks - Rabbi Moshe Yoseph Koniuchowsky CHILDREN OF SALT (from the internet question " Where did Israel get its salt?" - answer " Covenant of Salt " [2 Chronicles 13:5](#)

" The forefathers of Yisrael preserved their food with salt in place of the modern refrigerator. The important things of sustenance were preserved with salt. Israel's health was often preserved with baths in the Salt-Sea, which preserved their skin and appearance. Just as in the physical, so it is in the spiritual. All the important elements of Israelite worship must be preserved with salt. **Salt typifies abiding, eternity, steadfastness, stability, and permanence and even the very character and reliability of Abba Yahweh Himself!** [emphasis added] Therefore every sacrifice and every ordinance in the First Covenant by definition must be eternal, since Israel could only approach Yahweh with ordinances using salt offerings. These salt offerings were known to be everlasting due to the eternal and enduring nature of salt's preservation power along with what it implied in the spirit realm".

The Old & New Covenant is an unconditionally binding contract between God and man. God never broke The Old Covenant. God will never break the New Covenant. It cannot be broken even when man breaks it (see page 23-24 for an in-depth definition) . An old Will and Testament made by any man in this world is made legally null and void by a new Will. It is the New Will which has legal effect. The old Will becomes a historical document, important only for understanding the new Will. In the same way the New Covenant is the legal contract between God and man [1 Corinthians 10:6](#).

A Covenant between God and man is for each to have an intimate relationship with the other, as Father and son, bonded in the love (agape) of absolute loyalty. On a human level it is like a marriage covenant between husband and wife.

The relationship involves a **sacrifice sealed with blood** between the two parties. In the Old Covenant by the blood of animals, in The New Covenant by the blood of Jesus Christ as The Lamb of God.

Salt was used by God's chosen nation Israel in the **Old Covenant** temple/sacrificial system instituted by God Himself involving: **animal sacrifices or Burnt Offerings** Ezekiel 43:24 c/- John1:29, Hebrews ; **cereal or grain offerings** Leviticus 2:13 ; and the use of **Incense** Exodus 30:35. It was used for two reasons: it is the perfect base chemical for adding other chemicals top it (salt plus gums, spices and aromatics); and, because of its spiritual significance of eternity, permanence, and stability reflecting God's own character.

Salt is so important that there is a **Salt Covenant** which is directly linked to the grain offering. **Leviticus 2:13**. Salt was the basis in the solemn meals of the two biblical covenants in Genesis and Exodus

"And they said: We now see plainly that the Lord has been with you, and we thought: Let there be a sworn treaty between our two parties, between you and us. Let us make a pact with you...Then he made for them a feast, and they ate and drank. " **Genesis 26:28, 30**

Then he took the record of the covenant and read it aloud to the people. And they said, All that the Lord has spoken we will faithfully do! ... Then Moses and Aaron, Nadab and Abihu, and seventy elders of Israel ascended... and they ate and drank. **Exodus 24:7, 9, 10**

Salt sealed a Covenant made between man and man with a meal meaning that they were bound by absolute loyalty. They would keep their word to one another at all costs! Men took this from God's example -when God made a covenant with man He meant the same thing. God reinforced and sealed the Covenant with and David giving him everlasting dominion over the land of Israel **2 Chronicles 13:5** (this confirmed the Covenant made between God and Abraham on The Land).

" To your descendants I have given this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the river Euphrates –" **Genesis 15: 18-21**

And on the descendants

“ I will multiply your descendants as the stars of the heaven, and as the sand which is on the sea shore; and your descendants shall possess the gate of their enemy” **Genesis 22: 16-19**

The rites formed the basis for the atonement procedures for sin, which brought together God and His people, Israel. Wholehearted participation ensured a continuing presence of God in the daily life of that person. As we all know, the temple rites became a major stumbling block for most of the Israelites, simply because of disobedience (also known as unbelief). Similarly, church rites get in the way of Christians maintaining a personal relationship with the Godhead.

The importance of the Love (Agape) Feast and The Last Supper instituted by Jesus The Christ. When Jesus Christ instituted the Last Supper He did two very important things.

Firstly, He reinforced the Jewish Covenant of Salt custom by pledging His absolute loyalty, as a Man to His disciples at the meal. They in turn pledged their loyalty to Him, by sharing the meal with Him. They kept this covenant to the letter – each one of the disciples had shortened lives, counting it gain and an honour to die for their LORD. Judas Iscariot, the betrayer, was replaced by Matthias **Acts 1: 15-26** by casting of their lots – God reveals His will by this method, whereas the world takes the same practice and calls it “chance” or “fate”).

Secondly, Jesus instituted a new meal, “The Last Supper” with the breaking of bread (as a symbol of His mutilated, broken body for our complete healing in body, soul and spirit) and the drinking of wine (as a symbol of the cleansing of His Blood for all sins which is made effective by the confession of sins **1 John 1:7-9**.

What did this act mean to the disciples? Traditionally, when a couple wanted to get married, the two families would meet. The prospective husband would offer wine to the prospective wife. If she accepted the drink this confirmed the betrothal, an absolute commitment to marriage. So when Jesus offered the wine to His disciples, his was an act would have taken the disciples completely by surprise – Jesus was offering Himself as a Groom in a marriage proposal to his prospective wife! The disciples participated in the drinking of the wine, just as they participated in the eating of the bread. This meal, together with

the wine is known as The Last Supper. It established The Covenant between Jesus The Christ and His disciples **Matthew 26: 17-30**, who were now, spiritually speaking, The Bride of Christ **Revelations 19: 7-8**. If we confess to be His disciples, then we are confessing that we are covenanted to do this is often as we can. We participate in the "Love (agape) Feast" of having a meal together when we meet, and when we share the bread and the wine, in His "Last Supper" . For Christians, in spirit, individually and by our households, are the spiritual "stones" of The Bride of Christ, (both living and those fallen asleep) waiting for the Bride Groom to come at the Omega point of world history as "King of Kings and Lord of Lords" **Revelations 19:16** . Maranatha ! Come quickly Lord !

Please Note. It is of anthropological, sociological and historical significance, that we should note that The Covenant of Salt is reflected in all human societies. An invitation to dine, and acceptance, has the same sort of commitment of friendship and loyalty. We have as a common ancestor Adam and Eve, and, Noah and his three sons and their wives when they repopulated the earth after the Great Flood. The Flood tradition is universal to all human societies and civilisations.

The importance of The Covenant of Salt meal to the peoples of the Middle East is underlined by Derek Prince. He relates a real event when a platoon of Palestinian soldiers attacked and entered into the home of a young Jewish woman. The soldiers seized the woman. The Platoon sergeant realized that his men were going to rape her. He quickly reached into his pocket and offered some bread for the woman to eat. She accepted it. The men immediately backed off – instantly recognising the significance of the action - that the sergeant was offering her The Covenant of Salt meal. (I think I have retold the story correctly- please correct me if it is incorrectly related).

Jesus Christ is the Burnt Offering, the ultimate Lamb sacrifice for the world, for a Christian, in The New Covenant, *" Behold, The Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world"* **John 1:29** ,

His blood is poured into us to wash us clean of all **unrighteousness** when we confess our sins.

*" If we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship [true, two-way communication and loving, emotional sharing] with one another, and the **blood** of Jesus Christ His Son *cleanses us from all sin. ...If we confess*

*our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all **unrighteousness***". 1 John 1:7, 9

(*In Greek, the word "cleanses" is in the **present indicative tense** meaning that the cleansing starts from a point in time when we make the actual confession and then the blood keeps on cleansing as we keep on confessing as necessary. In any event, the blood of Jesus The Christ, The Lamb of God keeps us cleansed }

His blood takes the "un" out of "unrighteousness" so we are left with the word "righteous" (**this means that I am continuously covered by the Lamb of God and washed clean by His blood**). Thus the whole purpose of Jesus Christ's atonement (or reconciliation) is fulfilled. God renews His relationship with each person who responds through the person of Jesus Christ His Son. He was born of a virgin, lived a sinless life, was crucified on The Passover Day, rose from the dead three days later, proved that He is living to His disciples and to His own family, and ascended into Heaven to prepare a place for us. We can freely and boldly enter into Heaven through the veil of Jesus Christ's body. **Hebrews 4:14-16**. and take our seat next to His throne **Ephesians 2:6**. We must confront ourselves with the historical facts and their implications to ourselves, and, invite others to do the same!

Jesus The Christ is as a Cereal or Grain Offering, since Jesus The Christ (He is not a Messiah – for there had been many who claimed, falsely, this title - He is **The Messiah**, The Christ, anointed by God) died on the Cross at Calvary.

Christians participate in the cereal or grain offering as grains of wheat which have been placed in the ground and died and are now rooted and bearing fruit **John 12:24**. As His *disciples (*see Definition of disciple at end of this discussion) we participate in His death at our Baptism in Water (totally submerged in the water **Romans 6: 6-70**)and rise out of the water as new creatures **2Corinthians 5:17**. Such a disciple is also filled with The Baptism in the Spirit (total immersion in The Spirit of God) and is continuously being filled with the Holy Spirit **Romans 8: 1, 14**. The Holy Spirit was literally poured out of heaven at the Wheat Harvest Festival called Pentecost ("Pente" means 50 days after The Passover) **Acts 2:1- 4ff**. **This fact is rooted in human history!** Three thousand men and then many more and their households became "little Jesus Christs" reaching throughout the known world, and down through the annals of history. Lives transformed supernaturally by the Blood of Jesus Christ.

Jesus Christ is as Incense (the perfume arising from the burning of a mixture of gums and spices/ aromatics made to precise temple specifications). His disciples (us – you and me) are a sweet savour to God our heavenly Father and to those He calls.

“ For we are to God the fragrance of Christ among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing. To the one we are the aroma of death to death, and to the other the aroma of life to life. ”

2 Corinthians 2:15 – 16, Ephesians 5:2, Philipians 4:18

Incense has to be crushed to release its fragrance. Jesus Christ was crushed on The Cross. His body, including face, was beaten beyond recognition **Isaiah 52:14**. This is a direct reference to why true followers of Jesus Christ are persecuted – for refining for holiness. **1 Peter 1:7 & Revelations 2 :8- 11 The Ekklesia at Smyrna.**

“ Behold, I have refined you, but not as silver; I have tested you in the furnace of affliction, For My own sake, For My own sake will I do it; For how should My name be profaned? And I will not give My glory to another. ”
Isaiah 48: 10 – 11

*“ Just as many were astonished at you,
So His visage (appearance) was marred more than any man,
And His form more than the sons of men ” . **Isaiah 53: 14***

*“ He has no form and comeliness; And when we see Him, There is no beauty that we should desire Him. He is despised and rejected of men, A Man of sorrows (crushed), And we hid, as it were, our faces from Him;
He was despised, and we did not esteem Him.
Surely He has borne our griefs (sicknesses)
And carried our sorrows (pains). Yet we esteemed Him stricken, Smitten by God, and afflicted.*

*But He was wounded for our transgressions,
He was bruised for our iniquities;
The chastisement for our peace was upon Him,
And by His stripes we are healed,
All we like sheep have gone astray;
We have turned, every one, to his own way,
And the Lord has laid on Him the iniquity of us all. ” **Isaiah 2b- 6***

Am I willing to be crushed? Am I willing to be smashed to smithereens? Am I willing to “lose face”? Am, I willing to be physically persecuted and tortured for what I believe in before all my family, and before all men in my neighbourhood, in my

community, in my society? Jesus Christ willed it for Himself in total obedience to fulfill His Father's will ! This is the attitude and commitment of a repentant person who is so convicted of sin by the Holy Spirit that they are willing to be totally broken in spirit and in heart! **John 12:24, Psalm 51.**

When I became a Christian I put my hand-up for all this. My hands are still held up high! Are yours?

A person becomes a follower of Jesus Christ, a child of God "*born not of natural descent, nor of human decision, or a husband's will, but born of God*" (NIV) "**born not of blood** (we would a call this family connections today) , **nor the will of the flesh** (doing everything by our own will, the flesh which is at war with the spirit **Galatians 5:16**), **nor the will of man** (because someone wants you to do it – the desire for repentance has to come from within yourself) , **but of God** (when God the Almighty calls you by The Holy Spirit who convicts of sin, righteousness and judgment, **John 16: 8-11** you are answering the right call) " (KJV) **John 1:13.**

This is the "*Born again experience*" of **John Chapter 3.** Such a person is in the Spirit of God, who has died to self (and still dying to self) , is totally controlled and directed by the Holy Spirit and puts His hands-up to walk the Calvary Road of persecution (the Three Baptisms of Jesus Christ **Matthew 3:11**).

In the Old Covenant, the temple Priest made a daily offering of a burnt offering of the spotless **Lamb** and **grain** offering with oil **Ezekiel 46:13-15.** We are living in the "new wine and new wine skins" of the New Covenant **Matthew 9:17.** The "**New Wine**" is the **blood of Jesus Christ** which we drink, and the "**new wine skins**" are **each believers' body which is the temple of The Holy Spirit.** **1 Corinthians 3:16-17, 6:19-20.**

Now, we are exhorted to the **offering of ourselves** daily as a living sacrifice to Jesus Christ our seated High Priest! (washed clean by His Blood shed on Calvary) **Romans 12:1-2.** In addition, **we must pick up and carry our own Cross, daily** **Luke 9:23,** as a constant reminder of the need to allow Jesus Christ to annihilate our old self through the power of The Holy Spirit. We are to offer ourselves as grains of wheat which have died (split-open), and living now as "grains of wheat" filled with Pentecost Holy Spirit power, praise and glory to bear His fruit of The Spirit. **John 12:24, Acts 2, Galatians 5: 22-26.** We are the Priests, a royal priesthood **1 Peter 2:9** – the New has replaced the old! See the parallels?

We must always be Christ Centric. The birth of Jesus Christ as fully man and fully God was heralded to the world by Angels and Astronomical phenomena. For instance, the Star which guided the three astronomer Wise Men from the East right to the manger in Bethlehem. An angel encouraged Joseph to proceed with his marriage to Mary, and announced the name of the baby to be “*Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins*” **Matthew 1: 18- 25**. An angel heralded to the shepherds the “*good tidings of great joy which will be to all people. For there is born to you this day, in the city of David a Saviour, who is Christ The Lord*” This was followed by praises to God by an angelic host. The Three Wise men (astronomers) came from the East with gifts of **gold** (for The King who came as a Lamb sacrifice and is yet to come again as The King of Kings and Lord of Lords), **frankincense** (used in sacrifice, for the King is a Lamb sacrifice to die on the Passover for the sins of the whole world) and **myrrh** (used by the Jews in anointing for burial – He was placed into a tomb) **Matthew 2:11**.

The gold is a customary gift to Kings. It had a useful purpose – allowing Joseph and Mary to live in Egypt by faith in Almighty God, The Provider when they were told to flee from Herod. The angel frustrated Herod’s evil plan to kill the baby Jesus Christ - he warned the Kings to leave the country without reporting back to Herod **Matthew 2:12, 8-9**. Satan did all he could to prevent Jesus Christ from going onto the Cross as The Sacrifice of all sacrifices. Satan tried to stage a bloodless Cross coup attempt! Nothing and no one was ever going to frustrate God’s will from being done in earth and in heaven!

Frankincense, a tree gum aromatic, which has to be crushed to release its fragrance, was used in both the Tabernacle and Temple. God designated it to be “Most Holy” to His people, the Israelites **Exodus 30: 34-38**. It was used in the grain offering **Leviticus 2:1, 2:16, 6:15, 24:7** but strictly forbidden in the sin-offering **Leviticus 5:11**. Jesus Christ was beaten beyond recognition **Isaiah 52: 13-15** , and died on The Cross as the ultimate grain offering allowing the Pentecostal outpouring of the Holy Spirit on the day of the Grain Festival. Whilst He was on The Cross for the first and only time of His brief life on earth, our Heavenly Father turned His eyes away from the earth. We know this for two reasons: the blazing Mediterranean sun suddenly lost its light for three heart-breaking and painful hours from midday to 3pm (the time when The High Priest entered The Holy of Holies to make an atonement for the sins of the nation); and, Jesus Christ cried out into the supernatural darkness the agonizing words

" Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani " My God, My God why have You forsaken Me?" Matthew 27:46, Mark 15:34,

He knew, for the first and only time in His life on earth, that His Father had turned His eyes away from him. Only a deeply grieved, loving heart would do that! And indeed, how great is that loving heart of God our Father!

Myrrh was used by the Jews in the holy ointment **Exodus 30:32**, the purification of women **Esther 2:12**, as a perfume **Psalms 45:8, Proverbs 7:17, Song of Solomon 1:3, 3:6, 4:5, 5:13**, and it was offered in a drink to ease the pain (as an opium – He refused it) whilst Jesus was on the Cross **Mark 15: 23**, and as an embalming oil for burial **John 19:39**. Jesus Christ died on The Cross at Calvary. Jesus The Christ on earth was Holy (* He never sinned), He was fragrant to those who knew their sinfulness and wanted forgiveness. He was embalmed for burial by Nicodemus (about 100 pounds of myrrh and aloes was used) **John 19:39**

Note: One kilogram equals 2.2 pounds equivalent to one month's wages in Jesus' day. so 100 pounds is about 45 kilos, or 45 months wages, almost 4 years of income. A small fortune !

The gold, frankincense and myrrh were the prophetic signs of Jesus The Christ's destiny and being.

Would you like the three gifts?

In fact, we accept these gifts when we accept the free gift of eternal life **John 3:20**.

2. " You are *the salt of the earth* , but if the salt loses its flavour, how will it be seasoned? It is then good for nothing but to be thrown out and trampled under foot by men. You are *the light of the world*. A City that is set on a hill cannot be hidden" Matthew 5:13-14. Luke 14: 34-35

This may well refer to the life-giving qualities of salt. But can salt lose its flavour? It can by dilution. (From "I was made for this" – website "can salt lose its flavour?" author unknown)

"The only way for salt to lose its saltiness, from a chemical perspective, is for a chemical reaction to occur. $NaCl_2$ is a very stable substance. The chemical bond is very tight. You see, sodium and chlorine are happy to become one and share their one electron. Things work out really well for them...**they are like the happily married couple that just loves to be married, not matter what hits the fan** [emphasis added].

So, for salt to lose its pungent saltiness, or change its physical composition, **it would have to be diluted in water** because it is non-reactive in its crystalline form. Or electricity would have to be introduced to force the sodium chloride into its ionic components thereby changing its chemical composition.

So, for the Christian, for the salt of the earth, to lose his degree of saltiness, the Gospel would have to diluted in his life. (underlining added)

This person is the complacent Christian, the person who does not protect the Truth of the gospel in his life from the rainfall of other ideas and ideologies—Buddhism, Islam, American culture. This person mixes the Truth with a myriad of other ideologies. Thereby I assert that the question that the Christian, the Christ follower must ask is not necessarily, "How does salt lose its saltiness?" Rather the question should be, 'How then can I maintain my saltiness?' " End of quotation.

Note: Scholars call this dilution "syncretism". God calls it harlotry – doing the outward form of worship, the rituals, whilst embracing other idols or religious ideas. This is why God is so damning of the Church of Laodicea which was neither hot nor cold, but lukewarm – it compromised with the world, with Satan. **Revelations 3: 14-21**. A Christian must be "full on". Anything but 100% is unacceptable to Almighty God. This is why the summary of The Law is found in these words:

*" You shall love (agape) the Lord your God with **all** your heart, with **all** your soul, with **all** your strength and with **all** your mind, And love (agape) your neighbour as yourself "* **Luke 10:2728b**

A further question – were you ever salty? Were we ever loyal? Were we ever in a covenant relationship with almighty God? The answer is for a believer to be completely under the complete control of the Holy Spirit, all the time. A disciple of Jesus Christ, follows, listens to, obeys Jesus Christ. Jesus Christ is number one in his life! Reject the world for you cannot agape both God and the world **Matthew 6:24**. Nothing can come between you and our Lord God in Jesus Christ. The disciple has the very special qualities of the Godhead when the Holy Spirit is resident. Such a disciple is totally submitted to the promptings of the Holy Spirit. He imitates Jesus Christ in everything as he is led by the Holy Spirit. He has intimate fellowship with the Godhead through the precious blood of Jesus Christ. Jesus The

Christ's disciples are "the salt of the earth" (as well as "the light of the World").

Salt which has lost its flavour (diluted) is useless. If we call ourselves Christians, surely, we do not want to be known as being "useless", "unusable", by our heavenly Father? He will toss us out of His presence to be trampled by men! It is interesting to note that in Luke's account of the Gospel that salt which has lost its flavour is likened to a product fit only for the dunghill! **Luke 14: 34-35**. Such a person is on the road to hell, not the Calvary Road to heaven!

Salt, to be taken in small quantities, is internally essential and beneficial to the well-being of the body which is The Temple of The Holy Spirit. **1Corinthians 3: 16-17; 6:19-20** The Holy Spirit (as "Salt") has permanent internal, inner life-bearing benefits. As He grows in us, we become less and less important which is the way it should be! As John the Baptist said - "He (Jesus Christ) must increase, and I must decrease!" **John 3:30**. **The earth** produces the mineral, salt. This establishes a Christian's feet firmly in and on "terra firma", the ground. Jesus Christ was born fully man, and fully God. He experienced life as we know it. He can empathise with our problems. He is qualified to take our burdens from us.

A Christian has to "follow Me" (Jesus Christ) through life on earth. A Christian's life has to be relevant to others. This thought is reinforced with the word **Light** which shines into the world of darkness and can be seen for miles or kilometers. Thus, all a disciple has to do is to shine, that is, be a reflector of God's Glory (Greek, '*doxa*' or Hebrew '*kabod*'). The definite article "**The**" **Light** distinguishes the source of light - it is not any light source, any religious thought, it is The Light of the world, a spiritual light, none other than Jesus The Christ! **John 8:12** The reaction of people to The light exposes their true reaction to The Truth, which is Jesus Christ who is The Light of the world. We are attracted to it (Jesus Christ) or we reject it (Him). If we reject then we bring condemnation upon ourselves. **John 3: 14-21**.

A disciple does not ever need to "bible bash" people into the Kingdom, nor even be worried about the adverse reaction to the Good News of the Kingdom when the name of Jesus Christ is mentioned. The disciple is responsible only to sow the seed, the rest is up to God and the recipient of the Word (see Parable of The Sower **Matthew 13: 1- 23; Mark 4: 1- 9; 20; Luke 8:4- 18**).

Salt and The Land (earth) – (Israel – the Promised Land: Heaven – the spiritual Land). Salt is mined from the land, and the Dead Sea (full of salt and minerals) epitomises the relationship between salt, land, and sea.

The statement “ you are the salt of the earth ” is a direct link of the disciples of Jesus Christ to the covenant God established with Abraham and his descendents Israel who will inherit The Promised Land, known in shorthand as The Land by scholars.

The establishment of Israel as a nation in **14 May 1948** is a major benchmark for the fulfillment of The Old Covenant as it relates to Land. It ended 1,878 years of the great dispersion of the Israelites which began in 70A.D. when Jerusalem’s Temple was torn down stone-by-stone by the Roman legion (in the mistaken belief that gold had been hidden in the walls – note the irony, the real gold is having The Lamb of God over us as our King who owns all the gold). It will be fully fulfilled when all of the Land promised to Abraham is occupied by the Israelites, such as the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, plus for instance parts of Iran, Iraq, Syria and Jordan and all of Lebanon. We may well see in this lifetime, the rebuilding of The Temple in Jerusalem ! **Genesis 13: 14-18; 15: 18-21; 17: 7-8,**

Christians, as spiritually grafted heirs of The Promise **Romans Chapter 9** , will also inherit the physical “Promised Land” of Israel when Heaven comes down onto earth at Jerusalem at the Second coming of Jesus Christ as King of Kings and Lord of Lords, and of Heaven (as will believing Israelites). **Revelations 19:16**

This is a very compelling reason for Christians to support Israel financially, to give practical help, and to pray (since we are all grafted into the promises of Abraham, and the inheritors of eternal life, and are longing for the return of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ).

Christians inherit the spiritual land, Heaven, when they fall asleep and go home to be with the Godhead. And finally, Christians literally inherit the whole earth when Jerusalem is established on earth the Second Coming of our blessed Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, when we reign with Him in a New Heaven and New Earth. **Revelations 21:9- 22:21**

3. " Everyone will be salted(seasoned) with fire, and every sacrifice will be seasoned with salt". Mark 9:49

Being "salted" is like saying I am now more flavourful. The tasteless food is now tasty. Here the meaning is similar to the use of salt as a disinfectant on wounds which stings! It refers to the coming Great Judgment for all who have ever lived in the world, and, for individuals, it is the salt of fire – persecution, which tests loyalty, now, in this life!

" **Everyone will be salted with fire** " is affirmative, and inevitable as a consequence of those who make the decision to follow Him!

Persecution is the natural expectation and norm for those who want to walk in The Spirit, following in Jesus Christ's footsteps, in the walk to be holy. It is the third Baptism, a baptism in Fire (the other two baptisms are in Water, and in The Holy Spirit **Matthew 3:11** which entails complete submersion in both Water and The Spirit so that God can control us totally).

" For to this you were called, because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that you should follow in His steps..." 1 Peter 2:21

Daniel and his 3 friends were pushed into a raging furnace fire **Daniel chapter 3** (they survived by God's will). Daniel was thrown into the Lion's den **Daniel 6:10-28** (he survived by God's will).

Jesus was drawn/led out **Matthew 4:1, Luke 4:1** and thrown out/driven out **Mark 1: 12** into the fiery desert wilderness after his baptisms in water and The Holy Spirit. (We are given the message in no uncertain terms that He was no longer in control of His life! God, His Father, had taken over now). Then he was found often in the Great Temple which had become a "den of vipers". The Sadducees and Pharisees and Scribes, the religious leaders of the day, were out to find reason and an opportunity to get rid of him. (Jesus was Crucified by them on The Passover, but rose from the dead three days later, by God's will!)

Persecution is the rule not the exception of Christian living. Persecution is not an aberration of the Christian life, but its highest expectation. It is the natural expectation for those whose eyes are set upon heaven. This experience is in sharp contrast to the "blab-it-and-grab-it brigade" who look for a good life on earth. Persecution is definitely not the commonly held norm for Christians living in the "

Western economically rich world " where believers tend to be lukewarm always ready to compromise, like the church of Laodicea of Revelations, ready to be spat out by Jesus Christ. **Revelations 3: 14-22.** It is the norm for many in "developing" or "economically poor" countries" and in countries which have an antipathy to Christianity such as Moslem nations which are controlled by radicals and conservatives such as in Iraq and Iran, parts of India and Africa, and Latin America.

Church history* is littered with the bodies and blood of martyrs – true believers who were persecuted and burnt at the stake by Church rulers and enemies of The Truth.

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*FOOTNOTE: Apart from the New Testament, the real History of Christians has never been recorded systematically from the first century until the present day. This is because of the pervasive persecution true Christians experienced. They were habitually "visitors" , " sojourners" , " tent dwellers" in their " life on the run", and had no time to keep records which would be passed on and preserved. The Church history we read and study is that of a man-made institution(s) dominated by Rome in the West, and Greek and Russian Orthodoxy in the East. God does not live in temples made by men's hands Acts 7: 48-53; 17:24-38. Read The discussion on "The Bride & The Harlot" in website: kiwibamboo.co.nz, click into Kiwibamboo News, and, visit the web site: kingdomline.com for relevant discussions such as The Counterfeit Church, A normal body has two legs, Cash Cow, Dumbing down the saints.

" 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. " **1 Peter 1: 6b – 7**

The essence of the Eight Beatitudes is being filled, and continuously filled with the mind, heart and soul of the resurrected Jesus Christ who was persecuted. And, we have the same privilege of being refined like gold which is passed through fire, to be made holy, pure, for His name's sake. **Matthew 5: 1-20.**

(read "The Beatitudes" on the kiwibamboo.co.nz website)

We can experience the fullness of Jesus Christ's words by following Him. The reflector of light will be the object of adverse reaction for evil men hate the light lest their evil deeds be exposed! **John 3:19-20**

This also underlines the need for each Christian to be broken. What God, our Heavenly Father wants from us is brokenness so that He can duplicate His life within us, and enjoy His presence within **Psalm 51:17**. This is called fellowship (*koinonia*). We can appreciate why Jesus Christ used salt as a simile when we learn some facts about the mineral salt and its uses. Let us read on.

" Every sacrifice will be seasoned with salt " This was true for the Old Covenant. In the New Covenant, we are to offer ourselves as a living sacrifice to God daily for the renewing of our minds

" I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God which is your reasonable service. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God " **Romans 12:1-2**

Please note the following:

1. We are encouraged very strongly, to offer our bodies as **a living sacrifice** in much the same way that Abraham offered Issac, and our Heavenly Father offered Jesus The Christ (He died though). It is a very reasonable expectation. Salvation is by faith in Jesus The Christ, just as Abraham's act of offering Issac was counted to him as faith.
2. If we **offer our body** we offer everything in the body, that is, our body, soul and spirit including all that contaminates the spirit, the unclean spirits, the demons, sicknesses, psychological problems etc.! **Hebrews 4:12-13**
3. **We are not to conform to world** standards and patterns of thinking and behaviour.
4. **God will renew our minds**, the computer which directs all the body and what is in it. As we absorb God's words we learn His patterns of thinking, and dump the world's patterns of thinking once and for all! The world's patterns is everything which is not of God! We do some serious "spring cleaning".
5. **The proof of our talk is in our walk!** By doing these things we fulfill the will of God in our lives! *" Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven"* **Matthew 5: 16**

3. SUMMARY OF MAJOR LESSONS

- To have salt within us is to affirm Jesus Christ's atoning work on The Cross and all the implications for holy living, being led by The Spirit of God, daily.

Lesson: A person becomes a Christian by a sovereign work of God, by His divine Will, by His grace. Thus, we can say confidently that it is Almighty God, our Creator, who calls an individual and his household into a blessed intimate relationship with the Godhead – God the Father, God the Son Jesus Christ, and God the Holy Spirit. Psalm 139, John 1:13, Ephesians Chapter 2 ; 2:8

- We all must have a little salt. Salt was created by God and is of key importance to the maintenance of the body, makes food more enjoyable to eat, and acts as a preservative and antiseptic. Each salt granule is small. We need to take it in small portions –

Lesson: it is the 2 or 3 individuals who meet together in Jesus The Christ's name, who are also representatives of their *oikos* (households). *Oikos* can also meet with *oikos* to form the *ekklesia* (the called out ones from the church, the world who are called into Jesus The Christ, The Bride of Christ). The large congregations of so-called successful churches is completely at variance with the call to Holiness – only "the few" or "remnant" meet the standards.

- Salt, NaCl_2 , is a vital chemical which our bodies need. We cannot manufacture it from within – it has to be ingested. Man is tripartite Body, soul, and spirit. He can receive one of two spirits, The Holy spirit of the Spirit of the anti-Christ, which is Satan or The Devil.

Lesson: we can be made into the image of God only by an outside spiritual power- The Holy Spirit through the blood of Jesus The Christ, by repentance. The Godhead will make His home within each believer who agapes and obeys God's words John 14:23 . The transforming work is done by God not by our own efforts.

- Salt loses its flavour only if it is watered down – the bonding of two chemical (sodium and chlorine is so strong it can be likened to

the three cord marriage relationship between man and woman, and between God and Man as the Bride of Christ)

Lesson: if we fail to love (agape) the Lord our God with all our heart, soul, strength and mind, and to agape our neighbour as we agape ourselves, then we become guilty of harlotry. We are then guilty of mixing our faith in God with the cares of this world, the deceitfulness of riches, and pleasures of life (idolatry). We become like the lukewarm Laodiceans preparing ourselves to be rejected by God. Matthew 13:22, Luke 8: 14, Revelations 3: 14. Never dilute the mighty work of Grace Almighty God has done in our lives.

- Salt is an excellent food preservative, and antiseptic.

Lesson: God seals each of His children with The Holy Spirit. 2 Corinthians 1:22, Ephesians 1:13. It is the sign that a believer, a follower of Jesus The Christ, is controlled by the triune Godhead. Satan cannot touch us, but demands to "have a go", as "*the accuser of the brethren*" Revelations 12: 10.

- Salt has vital spiritual significance established by God in the Old Covenant – it represents permanence, steadfastness, and the Character of God who can be trusted to do what He says He will do. This is seen in *The Salt Covenant* ,established by God, binds *man to man* in absolute loyalty. It is sealed by a meal. Genesis 26:28, 30; Exodus 24:7, 9, 10.

Lesson: Jesus Christ is seen to be sealing His loyalty with His disciples with meals, after His resurrection, John 21: 9-14, and, especially with the institution of The Last Supper Matthew 26: 17-30. The Last Supper had two major meanings: a sign of absolute loyalty; and, a marriage covenant (we belong to the Bride of Christ, and He is the Groom Revelations 19:7-8). Similarly, we should cement our loyalty to one another as followers of Christ, in a meal together with The Lord's Supper. In the purely human level, an invitation to dinner and acceptance is a confirmation of the Covenant of Salt between peoples of all nations.

- Salt forms the basis for the Old Covenant relationship between *God and Man* on The Land of Israel and on the multiplication of Israel's descendants and control of the gates of their enemies. Genesis 15: 18-21; Genesis 22: 16-19.

Lesson: We must actively pray and support Israel as ones grafted people into Israel's promises where heavenly Jerusalem will come from Heaven.

- Salt is a vital and integral part of the Tabernacle of Moses system and The Temple system for forgiveness of sins in the Old Covenant. Salt is infused in the Tabernacle sacrifices in the Burnt animal offerings, Cereal or Grain Offerings, and in the Incense.

Lesson: In the New Covenant, Jesus Christ embodies and fulfills all three uses of salt in the Tabernacle. So we must offer ourselves as consecrated persons, as living sacrifices daily for the renewing of our minds in response to God's gift of grace and love (agape) Romans 12:1-2, John 3:20, 1 John 3:20.

- Salt has extra special significance in the recipe for incense used in the Tabernacle – the incense has to be crushed to release its fragrance and then mixed with gum and other spices and salt to a precise formula.

Lesson: Christians are the fragrance to others who believe 2 Corinthians 2:15 simply because they have brokenness - a "broken spirit and a broken and contrite heart" when they received salvation in repentance John 1:12; 12:24. Incense is crushed, so persecution in Jesus The Christ's name as we carry our own Cross is our natural expectation, not to be avoided ! 1 Peter 1:7.

A true Christian is one who has a deep conviction of his own sinfulness in a broken spirit and broken and contrite heart, (repentance), is totally obedient and loving (agape) to Jesus Christ. Psalm 51, John 13: 34-35

The New Covenant fulfills all that is in the Old Covenant especially as this relates to the Temple (God's presence among His people,

the priesthood, and sacrifices for sin,). The fulfillment is in the person of Jesus The Christ. It is sealed in the loyalty "Last Supper" which replaced the Temple cultus. Jesus Christ instituted The Last Supper" just prior to His crucifixion. The Bread is a symbol of His broken body - brokenness in us. The Wine is a symbol of His blood shed for the sins of the world on the Cross - our own sins are washed clean. Jesus The Christ and His Disciples are bonded by absolute loyalty and to each other in the bond of love (agape) by this "supper" John 13: 34-35

- Salt attests to God's unfailing love towards us. He will never ever let us down, even though we can and do let Him down!

The ability to keep on being salty lies in keeping a very humble and contrite heart, never compromising in the truth, continually walking in the light, and in being continually led by the Holy Spirit into Glory. I am purchased by God, my life is not my own.

"I've never known a man worth his salt who, in the long run, deep down in his heart, didn't appreciate the grind, the discipline."

-- Vince Lombardi

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The internet. Type in the question:

"Where does Israel get it's salt?" Good articles include:

- "A Covenant of Salt" by Susan E. Todd, 2003,
- " Covenant of Salt -Children of Salt- by Rabbi Moshe Yoseph Koniuchowsky **2 Chronicles 13:5**)
- " The Salt Institute of the USA "

Web sites: kingdomline.com - The Counterfeit Church, A normal body has two legs, Cash Cow, Dumbing down the saints. Discussions by Shaun Kearney ad Don Dunn, septuagenarian New Zealand Christians, who expose the nonsense which goes on in the church system, in the name of "Jesus Christ" !

kiwibamboo.co.nz - The Bride & The Harlot, The Beatitudes

DEFINITIONS:

- **Agape** is the Greek word (translated as "Love") which means a sacrificial love which comes from God. In other words it is God's love. It is totally unselfish and linked to "worship" . The most famous passage found in John 3:16 is based on this word " For God so **agaped** the world that He gave His only begotten Son Jesus Christ that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life."

- **Covenant** A covenant is an irrevocable promise which cannot be broken under any circumstances. A Covenant cements human relationships on the horizontal level (man-to-man, family, society, nation and international), and on the vertical relationship between God and man. A covenant is sealed with blood.

In the New Testament the Greek word is *diatheke* meaning "to set something out in order". The Hebrew word for covenant is *br'it* (or br'ith) which means "to bind" (op cit Derek Prince) .

In the Holy Bible, the most important **Old Covenant** was that between YHWH and Abraham (other Old Covenants include that between YHWH and Adam, Noah, and the Nation of Israel – God's own chosen people). YHWH blessed Abraham so that his descendents would have: God as their God; and a **Promised Land** (the boundaries are defined to be from "*the river of Egypt to the great river, the River Euphrates.....*" **Genesis 15: 18-20**). These two promises were to show God's unfailing love for Abraham's descendents. In history. YHWH sealed the covenant with Abraham, who by faith, showed his complete obedience to God when he offered His son Issac on the sacrificial alter. Right at the last possible moment Abraham's hand was stopped supernaturally from slaying his son. YHWH provided an animal sacrifice **Genesis Chapter 18** .

It is no accident that Land Deeds, signifying legal ownership of land, are also called Land Covenants. God's Old Covenant is base on **The Land** promised to Abraham and his descendants. Abraham "sealed it by the **blood**" of His own son Issac, who was spared at the last moment, and by the sacrifice of a ram (ram's **blood**) provided by God. **Genesis 22** Abraham's faith was counted as righteousness by God **Hebrews 11: 8-19** **The New Covenant** is also based on The Land, which includes The Land promised to Abraham, since Christians are grafted ones into Israel plus The Kingdom of Heaven, the spiritual land which will incorporate the whole earth when Jerusalem comes down onto earth from Heaven. God's unfailing love in history was sealed by the **Blood** of His own Son Jesus The Christ (the Anointed Messiah), as The Lamb of God , Jesus Christ **John 1:29** YHWH provided the ultimate lamb sacrifice, His own Son, extending forgiveness of sins not only

for Israel, Abraham's descendents but for the whole world. It was offered once and for all. God had now made it possible for all to enjoy His unfailing love within their own bodies, in the life experience. **John 14:23** as spiritually grafted members of Israel. **Romans 11: 11- 23.**

- **Disciple** – The term refers in the New Testament to a believer, a follower of Jesus Christ whilst He walked on earth and after his ascension, following The Holy Spirit. A disciple is taught and trained by Jesus Christ or The Holy Spirit on a “one-to-one” basis, unlike a University-lecture or school system as is common in Westernised education today. A disciple imitates and abides in and obeys Jesus Christ's words **John 8:31**, is continually learning the humbling lesson of submission as he/she follows The Holy Spirit (the Spirit of Jesus Christ), so that the Godhead can do their will in the disciple. A disciple forsakes everything in this world including his own parents, wife and children to place God in the rightful place in His life, as Supreme Head **Luke 14: 25-33, 1 John 2:15-17.** – meaning that Jesus Christ is given pre-eminence in a disciple's life. The Godhead resides in the body of each disciple **1 Corinthians 3: 16-17, 6: 19-20.**
- **Worship** The Biblical definition of worship by God differs significantly from the current use of the word by the Church system linking it to going to church and having “divine service” which includes, prayer, singing and listening to one man speaking “god's words” , and giving offerings of money. Interestingly, the first time the word “worship” is used in the Holy Bible, is when Abraham offered his dearly beloved and precious son Issac to God as an act of obedience, to Worship YHWH. This happened around 2000 B.C., some 4,000 years ago! **Genesis Chapter 22.** As an act of worship, Christians are admonished to offer themselves to the Lord **daily** as living sacrifices to God for the renewing of our minds **Romans 12: 1-2.**

Self Administered Questionnaire following pages : Your own pulse check on the spiritual health of your heart!

MULTIPLE CHOICE QUESTIONNAIRE FOR HUSBAND AND WIFE

35 tests of a godly man for ministry - 1 Timothy 3, Titus, Ephesians Chapters 5- 6
1 Peter 3: 1-3 These characteristics are equally applicable to test any man's
headship (authority) in his own household.

Characteristics	Weak =1	Moderate=2	Strong =3
1 Blameless			
2 Has one wife			
3 Temperate - vigilant			
4 sober-minded (self-controlled)			
5 Well Behaved - dignified			
6 Hospitable			
7 able to teach			
8 Not an alcoholic			
9 Gentle			
10 Not quarrelsome			
11 Not covetous - not greedy for money			
12 Rules own household			
13 Children are submissive, obey parents			
14 Experienced Christian			
15 Not proud			
16 Good reputation			
17 Reverent			
18 Not double-tongued			
19 Pure conscience			
20 Bold in faith			
21 Good steward			
22 Not self-willed			
23 Not quick tempered			
24 Lover of what is good			
25 Just			
26 Holy			
27 Stands by God's Word			
28 Refutes error			
29 Wife – reverent, chaste conduct			
30 Wife not slanderous			
31 Wife- temperate, gentle quiet spirit			
32 Wife- faithful in all things			
33 Wife - submits to husband in all things			
34 *Agapes wife			
35 Agapes God			
Totals			
Grand Total score			

Results

Maximum scores are the ideal.

No marks will ever be recorded - this is a self-evaluation only

The First Century standards (God's) are extremely high!

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Appendix: 1 FOUR BASIC USES OF SALT

There are four basic uses of salt today. The statistics quoted below are from the most powerful industrialised country the world has ever seen. USA's experience is worthy of our attention. (Statistics quoted are from the USA by the Salt Institute - website).

1. 5% - Food grade for human nutrition
2. 6% - Agriculture – for animal nutrition
3. 19% - Industrial – chemical production and other industrial uses
4. 70% - Highway salt – to prevent the road from icing up or to break-up ice on the road.

Obviously the main uses in the first century, particularly in Israel, would be in the first three, categories as there was no motor vehicles (the Roman conquerors built a net work of roads throughout the Empire). Our focus will be on human and animal consumption and its uses in Biblical times and the relevance to us today.

Appendix 2. WHAT IS SALT?

Salt is basically a combination of two chemicals – sodium and chlorine. It's periodic table name is **NaCl₂**. As mentioned earlier, the combination of these two chemicals is very stable one. All humans and animals, including livestock and poultry, require both sodium and chlorine for life and health, and since *the body cannot produce these two nutrients*, the main source is through the food chain. However, normal food consumption for humans provides insufficient quantities of these chemicals, so there is a need to *supplement* the diet with salt to maintain a nutritionally balanced diet so that the body can remain healthy, disease free, achieve optimum growth and reproduction. Salt is also an excellent carrier for trace elements such as iron, copper, zinc, manganese, cobalt, iodine and selenium which the body also needs.

Comment: There is a parallel between the physical and spiritual life. Human beings are dependent upon salt from sources outside the body, (the food chain and ingesting the mineral). Similarly, in spiritual life we can only sustain spiritual life upon an outside agency, Jesus Christ (as in The Holy Spirit and God The Father). Others may seek spiritual life from Satanic sources. Humans are tripartite , that is, comprising of body, soul, and spirit **Hebrews 4:12-13**. Humans are set-apart from animals in that we have a spirit – in other words we have been created with a need for spiritual nourishment and sustenance , from our Creator right from the outset. Animals do not have a “spiritual life” ! If we obey and agape Jesus Christ, then the Godhead will live, abide, indwell, in our temple, our body! “ *If anyone loves [agapes] Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love [agape] him, and We will come to him and make Our home with [or in] him.*” **John 14: 23**

Normal food intake does not give us enough to sustain life – we need extra salt (and other trace minerals) to maintain a healthy body. In spiritual life, “man must not live by bread alone but live by every word which proceeds from the mouth of God” **Matthew 4:4** Whilst we know that we must eat to live, and we do, there is additional food we need - salt or spiritually, God's pure Words. His Words nurture our spirit, therefore our whole being. But as we cannot ingest enough on our own, we also need the continuous working of The Holy Spirit within so that the spiritual life remains vibrant. The example of the Pharisees is enough – they believed in the resurrection of the body, they knew The Scriptures like no others , but somehow managed to be blind to see that everything they knew and looked forward to was in their very midst, eating, walking and talking with them so naturally. They were so blinded by their own self-importance and ceremonies and rituals and keeping The Law that they

were unable to receive" living bread" (His true words of life) from Him who created them and lived in their midst as a fellow Jew!

Salt's usefulness in the body – Sodium makes up about 93% of the basic mineral elements in the blood serum and is the chief cation regulating blood pH. The ability of the muscles to contract is dependent on proper sodium concentrations. Sodium plays major roles in nerve impulse transmission and the rhythmic manufacture of heart action. In addition, efficient absorption of amino acids and monosaccharides from the small intestine requires adequate sodium.

Chloride is the basic anion in blood and represents about 2/3rds of its acidic ions. The chloride shift movement of chloride in and out of the red blood cells is essential in maintaining the acid base balance of the blood. Chloride is also a necessary part of the hydrochloric acid produced by the stomach which is responsible to digest most foods.

In Biblical times, as it is today, salt was a vital part of living. You could say it was worth its weight in gold!

Comment: Our bodies are indeed "*fearfully and wonderfully made*" **Psalm 139:14** . It is an amazingly finely honed "mechanism" or "living industrial complex" where it's functioning is so delicately dependent upon so many moving parts, chemical processes, and electrical impulses which function interdependently such that the thought that we evolved defies logic !

A binding together of a man's spirit and God's spirit, by spiritual rebirth John 3, is essentially a process initiated by God The Father **John 1:13** commonly referred to as "the born again experience" **John 3**. More accurately, it is a continuing process of "being born again" (The Greek tense is present indicative passive which means that it begins in a point of time, and continues with the person participating in a passive state. The "active" one is The Holy Spirit). The process of change is therefore of the Spirit of God which is a transliteration of the original Greek words as we walk on the road of holiness. The process involves: repentance; nurturing in and by God's Holy Word; and forging through persecution for Jesus name's sake, as a disciple walks through this earth being led by The Holy Spirit for the end-goal of Holiness. The beginning Full rebirth of a person takes place after physical death when the Spirit is released from the body and goes to Heaven awaiting a new, glorious body to reign with Jesus Christ at His Second Coming. **1 Corinthians 15: 35-58**

Salt is found in the earth and in the sea. It is extracted by mining, more often than not using high water pressure to blast out the mineral. It is leached into the sea by the action of water. It is also extracted by evaporation of sea water under the sun's heat.

Comment: The action of the Sun is the major heat source to extract the mineral called salt. The action of THE SON OF GOD is the key to a real and sustaining spiritual life. " He has delivered us from the power of darkness and translated us into the kingdom of the Son of His love [agape]." **Colossians 1:13**

Lesson: A single salt grain is virtually tasteless. The most natural "pinch of salt is the Household, a combining of salt grains .

"Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and you and your household will be saved!"
Acts 16:31 You and your household make a formidable force for the Lord. The Holy spirit reminds us that Jesus is literally head of each Christian household -**Ephesians Chapters 5& 6**

Light of world – A Christian is likened to a light set high up on a hill as a beacon. Such a person has received the "Light of the world" [Jesus Christ] into their life and becomes a reflector of God's glory [doxa]. A Christian is a shining representative of Jesus Christ who exposed sin and got rid of its effects on all people (wrong thinking, sickness, unclean spirits or demonic infiltration, and ultimately, death). A Christian (the name in English is literally " Christ – in", or Christ is resident within), literally becomes a vessel for the Godhead (God The Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit) to live in and in whom He can duplicate His life and works.

"If anyone loves [agape] Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love [agape] him, and We will come to him and make Our home with [in] him."

John 14:23

If I am God's child I will listen to my Father's words, and if I am not His child I will not listen to what His says **John 8:47** . That's pretty clear isn't it?

Appendix 3. SALT IN THE OLD AND NEW COVENANTS – background lessons and practical applications to a Christian life of being led in the Spirit

Just as salt is a valuable and basic necessity of life, and is a condiment (adding flavour to food), it was also used in Temple worship in the pre-Jesus Christ world. Jesus Christ underlined its continuing spiritual importance in the Christian life.

In the Old Testament salt was a valuable commodity of trade. Much of the salt used in Israel was extracted from the Dead Sea by solar evaporation. Apart from a flavouring in food, its' uses included: to make land barren or desolate **Judges 9:45**; as a preservative when concentrated in brine; at nativity, where the new born baby was washed with water and then salted **Ezekiel 16: 4**. Salt was also used in the Temple as a sign of mutual loyalty in Covenant Relationship **Numbers 18:19, 2 Chronicles 13:5**. Salt was added to sacrifices on Cereal and Burnt offerings **Leviticus 12:13, Ezekiel 43:24**, and Incense was seasoned with salt **Ezekiel 43:24**.

Jesus Christ commanded His disciples to "*have salt in themselves*" **Mark 9:50, Colossians 4:6** and warned later that "*everyone will be salted with fire*" **Mark 9: 49** referring to the sacrifice involved in the coming judgment and our walk in His footsteps. With these background thoughts let us summarise what Jesus Christ meant (source: IDB [1981] Vol.4 p.167]

Salt has its own flavour and is found in many forms and colours depending on the other minerals and trace elements contained in the salt. Similarly, each household is different, irrespective of colour and ethnic origin . The manifestation of God's glory in each household is unique!

1. Salt as a sustainer of life – Although it appears to be insignificant, it is vital for the maintenance for the body's health.

Lesson: We have been called to be temples for the living God.

" Jesus answered and said to him (Judas Iscariot), ' If anyone loves [agapes] Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love [agape] him, and We will come to him and make our home with [in] him." John 14: 23

" I have been crucified with [in] Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved [agaped] me and gave Himself for me" Galatians 2: 20

" For in Him we live and move and have our being" Acts 17:28

" Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's" 1 Corinthians 6: 19-20

" Now He who establishes is with [in] you in Christ and has anointed us is God, who also has sealed us and given us The Spirit in our hearts as a deposit." 2 Corinthians 1: 21-22 (see also Ephesians 4: 30,

Revelations 7:4)

The life in us is forever, eternity. His continuing presence is the seal, warranty, or guarantee that Heaven is within us, the Godhead dwells within, and that we are Heaven bound!

2. Salt is a common, basic condiment. We take it as a matter of course, almost without thinking!

Lesson: Spiritually, God takes ordinary citizens and makes them into a very special people – His own. Such are usually at the bottom of society's pyramid, the majority of ordinary, poorly paid labourers. The "rich" are not excluded by Jesus Christ.

This contrasts sharply with the view that only the privileged few are good enough for salvation – the Sadducees and Pharisees, the rich and famous, the powerful and the such-like. A exclusivist spirit, or superior spirit, is foreign to Jesus Christ's life. God chose to send His Son into the world. *Emmanuel* (which means God among and in our midst) is one of the names He was called in recognition of this humbling act. He was born in a stable, not a palace. Honoured by the Wise men from the East, and shepherds (at the bottom of the social scale) and by Angels, He became an instant refugee. So Christians are to live in the world as Pilgrims as Sojourners, as refugees in this world. We are to participate in the world. We must never hold on to worldly possessions as if we have ownership of material possessions – Jesus Christ is the owner – He uses our name when we buy things for His glory, for Him to use, for His use and our

benefit! Everything we are is because of Him. We need to permit ourselves to be used as "salt shakers", readily available to be shaken for others. We are not to take ourselves out of the world and live a cloistered life, or in self-contained communities like cults having nothing to do with the world.

3. **Salt is a Seasoning. A little salt is enough to enhance the flavour of food to make it very enjoyable to taste. Too much and it is overwhelming (inedible – too salty). You cannot eat a lot of eat on it's own!**

Lesson: Salt as a flavouring – it is added to food. so we must be the vehicle for God to touch and to keep encouraging others, so that others may "taste and see" that God is all loving and merciful.

" Let your speech always be with grace, seasoned with salt, that you may know how you ought to answer each one " Colossians 4:6

Try before you buy! Non Christians must be able to see Jesus Christ in us ! They must hear it from our own lips, seasoned with agape (the pure, sacrificial love which emanates from God, enters us, then emits from us). They can only see Him if we are true reflectors of His glory. Anything else and the world will know that we are hypocrites.

(the Greek the word "hypocrite" means "actor").

Christians will always be "a little flock" to bless others as God blesses. Many are called but few chosen! **Matthew 20: 16**. Almighty God our loving Father will always have a Remnant of those who truly agape Him **Romans Chapter 11**. Not too many will want to carry a Cross everyday, and to present themselves as living sacrifices to God everyday for the renewing of their mind **Romans 12:1-2**. You may have a "packed church" but really now, how many will "walk-the-talk" and be 100% for Jesus Christ, totally submitted to the Holy Spirit and be led by Him?

Did you know that a compromiser is a traitor in God's eyes! God says this through Jeremiah 3:8-10 *" Then I saw for all the causes for which backsliding Israel had committed adultery, I had put her away and given her a certificate of divorce; yet her treacherous sister Judah did not fear, but went and played the harlot also. So it came to pass through her casual harlotry, that she defiled the land and committed adultery with stones and trees. And yet for all this her treacherous sister*

*Judah has **not** turned to Me with her whole heart, but in pretense, says the LORD."*

The Royal Law is to "*Agape the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind, and [agape] your neighbour as yourself...do this and you will live.*" **Luke 10: 27-28b**

Do you have a treacherous heart? Perhaps you think in your heart, indignantly, that this is not me...I'm not a traitor in the mould of Judas Iscariot who sold Jesus Christ to his enemies for 30 pieces of silver!! Well, if you are not 100% for Jesus Christ, and follow Him only sometimes, and comfortably follow men or systems, may I suggest that you might well fit the description of the person God describes. Or, as is usual for many things in this world – money is the bottom line. It was for Judas (silver), is it for you? If you are a pastor, is money, tithing, your biggest concern? "Bums on seats" equates to money in the coffers if your church insists on tithing (this Old Covenant teaching is no where to be found in the New Covenant!). If you are an ordinary "bloke" is money your main ambition in life? Put anything ahead of Jesus as your priority, and you will not be 100% for Jesus !

Now is the time to repent and get your life right with your LORD God. The expression "*For the time has come for judgment to begin in the house of God*" **1 Peter 4:17** begins with us first – refers to our own households in the first instance as well as the individual.

- 4. Salt is a Preservative** – it prevents corruption, decay. It preserves meat and vegetables.

Lesson: We are preserved, protected by God for salvation, for heaven. We must also be relevant in the society in which we live and work.

"you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise, who is the guarantee of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, to the praise of His glory" **Ephesians 1:13-14**

Christians are also the moral conscience for their nation. Christians need to speak-up! We need to tell the world that in Jesus Christ, is the answer to the crime, violence. Christians are the righteous ones. A few righteous ones can save a whole city. For example,

Noah was found to be just or righteous. He was saved from the Great world-wide flood together with his wife, three sons and their wives – eight all told, one household out of the whole world ! Another example is Abraham who pleased with the Lord God almighty – he negotiated with to save the Sodom and Gomorrah. Abraham asked God to save the city if 50 righteous people were to be found, then he got the number down to 10 righteous ones. Not even ten could be found, so judgment came upon the cities (this thought was discussed by Derek Prince).

Question: Do I want to be like “Noah” , to be like Abraham, to be like Jesus Christ? Do I want my own household to be saved?

- 5. Salt is used for curing - draws water from cucumbers, preservatives and meat .** If salt is rubbed into raw cucumbers it draws out the water before you pickle them. Salt rubbed into meat prior in the course of marinating, will draw out the liquid in the meat (there will be a lot of liquid in the basin the next morning). The Samaritan woman went to draw water from Jacob’s well and Jesus revealed that

“ Whoever drinks of this water will thirst again, but whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst. But the water I shall give him will become in him a fountain of water springing up into everlasting life. The woman said to Him, ‘ Sir, give me this water, that I may not thirst, nor come here to draw’ ” John 4: 13b – 15.

Is this the cry in your heart? Then seek Him. He will be found and you will have this fountain continually gushing and bubbling up from within you!

If the meat is given a coating of oil before the application of a marinade then there will be almost no ‘leakage the next morning. The meat will be tenderized, and moist when it is put in the oven for roasting! Are you ready for the salting and oiling?

Lesson: The God’s word will dry-up sin in a person’s life. It will draw out everything which should not be inside a person, every blockage, every problem, every creature or unclean spirit which prevents Jesus Christ from taking over a person’s life completely. Here is a list of sins from Galatians 5: 19-21 “ *Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, licentiousness, idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions,*

jealousies, outbursts of wrath (anger), selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, envy, murder, drunkenness, revelries, etc." . Submit these , cast these onto Jesus Christ and see Him take these burdens from you!
Matthew 11: 28-30 Dump them at the foot of The Cross and onto His body which was beaten and broken on The Cross for your healing!
" By His stripes we are healed!" **1 Peter 2:24b**

When we are baptised in The Holy Spirit, as with an oil of anointing, then we will retain fellowship with and in the Godhead. This is one of the three baptisms God talks about **Matthew 3:11**. Baptism in Water for repentance (total submersion) and dying to self, Baptism in The Spirit -total immersion in God's Spirit for total control by God who is Spirit, Baptism in Fire -refining through the fires of persecution for holiness, a continuing refining walk.

We share the overflow of God's [agape] love after we have been filled and are being continuously filled. *" Be Filled with the Spirit "* is more accurately translated as *" Be continuously filled with the Spirit "* **Ephesians 5: 18** . This is an imperative command, not an option! We have to let ourselves be open to this in-filling of God's Spirit on a continuing basis, not every now and then, once in a while, as we feel like it!

Question: Have I experienced the three baptisms of Jesus Christ? in Water for repentance; In The Spirit for power to follow after Jesus Christ, to be controlled by The Holy Spirit; and , in Fire for holiness as gold being purified by the fire of persecution?

6. Too much salt brings high blood pressure, leading to heart attacks and other complications like hardening of the arteries.

Lesson: "We must be spiritually natural and naturally spiritual" . "Too much spirit and we blow up!" (quoted from Jack 'The Axeman' Lloyd NZ Evangelist – he got this nickname from being the nemesis of Churches who keep the Holy Spirit outside their organization).

As a Christian, we must have our heads in Heaven and our feet firmly on the ground. Common sense goes a long way in living the Christian life. We are tripartite – body, soul and spirit. **Hebrews 4:12-13**

The Body. We must have a balance in our body, between acidity and alkalinity, reducing agents (known as anti-oxidants) and

oxidizing agents (oxidants), that is a balanced diet. We must also exercise, and have rest. Our body is not created as a machine which can operate 7 days a week and 24 hours a day.

The Soul. This is commonly known to consist of the mind, emotions, and will. The body and soul is the basic building block of the animal and mammal kingdom. We can educate the mind or intellect. Our emotions we can control and discipline. The will is what we can exercise. The Will is very powerful. In Christian circles the exercise of the Soul is often referred to as "soulish" behaviour. More accurately and correctly the word in Greek is *Sarx* which refers to the Flesh. **1 Corinthians 2:14**

The Spirit. This is what distinguishes all human kind from the animal world. God (Jesus Christ) blew His breath into man and Adam became a living being – the apex of God’s creation – a man created in God’s own image. Adam had an intimate relationship with His creator and communed with Him daily at dusk. We were created to know God, to have His creative mind. No other animal can match man. We, so must we be "balanced in the Spirit". Spiritually this means balance between the life in the flesh – living in this world, and being led by The Spirit of God. A Spiritual life balanced with the Word of God which are His thoughts, patterns of thinking.

" The letter kills , but the Spirit gives life ". **2 Corinthians 3:6.** The Hasid Jews had the "Word" of God tied to their heads with phylacteries, recited the word of God but did not, would not, recognise Jesus Christ as The Son of God, The Messiah! We must take care to keep our spirits soft to the Lord – always submitted to Him

- 7. Salt is a very small crystal. A single crystal of salt is virtually indiscernible and tasteless. It takes a small quantity of crystals before the food is enhanced and becomes tasty.**

Lesson: So individually we are very insignificant. But we are much agaped, (loved) ones to be cuddled by our Heavenly Father forever. It is the very essence of insignificance which is the kernel of being Christian! Christ became nothing for us. Annihilation of the self, is the basic qualification for becoming a Christian, to participate in the "being born again experience" .

"born, not of blood, nor the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God" John 1: 13b

" Unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God" John 3: 3

[" born again" is more accurately translated as "being born again" . The Greek tense is "present indicative passive". The "passive" refers to the person who is saved as being totally passive. The present indicative refers to the activity of God who causes a person to be repentant in one moment of history, and from that time onwards it becomes a process of " **being saved**" of being sealed in holiness and the person undergoes the on-going process **of being made holy** through persecution and acts of God to bring each to total submission and surrender to God's will. To become like Him, like Jesus Christ.)

A little added brings out the taste of heaven! Irrespective of the variety the single salt crystal cannot be tasted. Its flavour can be tasted when a few crystals are combined together.

Furthermore, a single Christian is most effective when two or three are gathered together in Jesus' name. **Matthew 18: 20**. A Christian is powerful when he and his household are believers, **Acts Chapter 10 and 16:31**, and, whenever Christians meet together as a household or as households (this forms the Ekklesia – 'the called out ones')

" not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching." Hebrews 10: 25 .

Incidentally this is the only scripture I know of which Church going people have been taught to justify church-going. The context of this letter to The Hebrews (Jews) is persecution and the finished work of Calvary – we can enter into Heaven through the veil of Jesus Christ's own body. As we meet together we form His spiritual body on earth. There is no scripture which commands a Christian to go to church!

Therefore, whenever Christians meet together they form the **Ekklesia**. 2 or 3 can mean just that, or representatives of **oikos** (household), or literally the meeting of several oikos, meeting as "The Body of Christ".

8. **Salt is a medicine – antiseptic.** As mentioned earlier, a new born baby was salted **Ezekiel 16: 4**. Salt kills germs and bacteria. As a paste, salt can be mixed with baking soda to make toothpaste (it works brilliantly both as a cleanser and breath freshener).

Recipe: 3 parts baking soda, 1 part salt
 To each half cup of above tooth powder, you may add:
 3 teaspoons glycerin
 10-20 drops of flavoring (peppermint, wintergreen, anise, cinnamon)

Lesson: My body, the temple of the Holy spirit is cleansed of all unrighteousness through repentance, and by the casting out or expelling of unclean spirits (also known as "deliverance") who pollute the temple of The Holy Spirit **2 Corinthians 7:1**. Such unclean spirits managed to sneak into my body through sin such as idolatry, accidents, participation in Satanism, martial arts, horoscopes, Ouija boards. The sins of my forefathers visited, stay, came into me even to the third and fourth generation! **Luke 4:18** (see the sin of idolatry in the second of the 10 Commandments **Exodus 20: 4-6, Deuteronomy 5: 1-22 , Deuteronomy Chapters 5 - 7** .

I am continually being cleansed by The Blood of The Lamb provided I keep myself under The Lamb of God, and keep on confessing my sins, as they occur, admitting to God and those I sin against. **1 John 1:7-9**

Salt applied to wounds – stings. No sting, no effect! No persecution, no holiness. Salt was used in childbirth.

Question: Do I really want to be a salty disciple?

- 9. "You are the salt of the earth"** Salt, is the combining together of basically two chemicals, Sodium and chlorine to form a new chemical, salt. Similarly, God take a human being of His choice and combines His Spirit in a **fusion process**, like in a marriage between a husband and a wife.

Lesson: Christians are fused with our True Godhead. We are in covenant relationship with Jesus Christ (The Triune Godhead) to please Him as He uses us to add flavour to our relationship with Him (since He is our High Priest and we are His living stones forming His living Temple **1 Peter 2:5**). The relationship is sealed by and through the blood of Jesus Christ poured out on The Cross, the New Wine . which we drink.

We are to share what we have in Him the covenant relationship with other Christians (**Mark 9:50**), and to our " neighbours" which especially includes our enemies! Jesus Christ mixed socially with

sinners, so that they knew who to turn to when they recognized their need for His "services" (healing and forgiveness of sins). Christians are to live that life in Christ **Acts 17: Galatians 2:20**.

Salt is found everywhere in the earth and in the sea. So Christians are to be found in all walks and stations of life, penetrating all classes, all power and social cliques, all communities, all tribes and nations.

We are never meant to live in communes or communities isolated from the main stream of life. This does not mean that God condemns Christian communities or communes – rather that these communities become concentrations of His intentions on earth as centers of light to which people can see the outworking of God's amazing agape [love] which has been poured into individual lives living together in peaceful and godly harmony! Such communities must always reach out and be effective witnesses in the world of God's agape. You can be a "community" where you live - start this in your own household, in your own family, at home, then in your street and neighbourhood! Be shining examples of "faith in action" in your own street! You will find that as you and your family reach out to help, your hands will become Christ's hands.

Question: How can I let my own home be the supreme example of the complete and perfect unity of the Godhead? How can I pass the test for every Christian husband and wife (tick the multiple choice test found in 1 Timothy 3, and Titus v. 5-9 – for A husband and wife, children and parents). A self-administered Multiple Choice Questionnaire is included at the end of this discussion.

10. Water has an important role in the extraction of salt. It is used to flush salt out of the ground, or, water is taken out of salt water by the application of heat, usually from the Sun, leaving behind the salt crystals.

Lesson: Jesus identified Himself as "living water". *"Whoever drinks of this water will never thirst again"* **John 4:13**.

The Holy Spirit's presence within us is as fountains of living water springing from within us **John 7:38**. Water smoothed the rough edges of the five stones David picked to hurl at Goliath **1 Samuel 17: 40**.

Significantly he only had to use one of them! The smoothed stone was a "guided missile", guided by God's hand. The force of the water causes the abrasive action of stone rolling over stone as we interact with one another in Christ and so discover our own failings! We are definitely not meant to be an island, or live in isolation from our fellow Christians, brothers and sisters in Christ!

Question: Is the living water of Christ flowing, gushing, out of me? If not, then how do I get to be like that?

11. The heat from The Sun evaporates water to produce salt.

Lesson: The sun's rays evaporates salty water to leave salt crystals behind. In the same way heat from The Son produces in us Holiness. We are to be refined as silver and gold for holiness. No fire, no holiness. No fire no testing. No fire no chastising from the LORD God our heavenly Father. No fire, no life! The Beatitudes identify the heat to be the fire of persecution which is applied to a follower of Jesus Christ. **1 Peter 2: 27, Malachi 3:3, Isaiah 48:10** There is a discussion on The Beatitudes, which throws new light on the subject – see the Kiwibamboo.co.nz website (references at the end of this discussion).

This is the chastising from the Lord for those He agapes. Hebrews 12:5-6 A Christian must go through the refining fires of life to learn obedience **Hebrews 5:8**, and so obtain

" the peaceable fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it ". Hebrews 12: 10-11

How many resist this fire for a life of acceptance and backslapping togetherness?

In Jesus' day many knew the truth but refused to publicly acknowledge Him because they " *agaped the glory (doxa) of men more than the glory (doxa) of God* ". **John 12:43**. This is perversion, or harlotry, because the person is offering themselves as a living sacrifice to men in the same way that he offers himself to God.

Denying Jesus Christ can be so subtle. All you have to do is to duck and do nothing with the Truth. We are to be "doers of the word and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves" **James 1: 22.**

It is a sin not to believe in Jesus, that is, to put your trust in, totally obey Him. **John 16: 9.** Now is the time to repent. Now is the time to change! Do it! Do it, now!

Question: Do I duck when I am called to Stand? **Ephesians 6:14.** Do I practice my own form of "Martial arts" and deflect the blows from the Lord and so avoid persecution? Just as God allowed Satan, the accuser of the brethren, to test Job and his friends, so God will allow the same for us! If you do not submit yourself for the examination, how will you ever pass?

12. Salt is used as a glaze to line pipes and to waterproof pottery.

Clay pipes which have been coated with salt and then fired in a clay or oven will not leak water. The firing process is intense heat which initiates a chemical change which makes the salt (plus colouring) substance into a hardened, durable, water tight surface.

Lesson: It is no accident that when God chose to pour the Holy Spirit out of Heaven in the Day of Pentecost (the Festival of First Fruits, and Harvest Festival of Wheat). The Baptism in the Holy Spirit was witnessed by many who saw tongues of Fire over the disciples. The first fruit were the 120, then 3,000 who became believers, then those who were added daily by God on the first outpouring of the Holy Spirit, and described in Acts. We should note that the word "pour" features in the description of the advent of the Holy Spirit and throughout the book of Acts.

Only a leak proof container will hold the oil of anointing, the Holy Spirit.

Question: Am I a cup or a colander?
(Read Psalm 23:5 I am expected to pass on the overflow!).

13. I am to be like the sun, a reflector of God's light (glory) in a world in darkness. A city built on a hill as was the ancient custom (for fortification reasons) cannot be hidden. The light shines into the world and the darkness in the world cannot extinguish it! Hell cannot prevail against God's light ! We are to uphold God's Truth

about Jesus Christ in a world which wants to hide from the truth.– We are commanded to walk in the light. We must continue to have an acute awareness of sin.

We must think in black and white categories. What is right or wrong is clear cut for Christians. There is no room for compromise – *“ unless your righteousness exceeds the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, you will be no means enter the kingdom of heaven”* **Matthew 5:20.**

Those who come into the light have nothing to hide – all sins have been confessed and washed clean, as white as snow! There is no condemnation for those who live and walk in the light. **1 John Chapter One.** Those who refuse to come to the light are self-condemned. Such people do not want their evil deeds to be revealed in The Light! **John 3 :14-21**

“ ...God who first ordered light to shine in darkness, has flooded our hearts with His light, so that we can enlighten men with the knowledge of the glory of God as we see it in the face of Christ ” (**J B Phillips translation**)

Lesson: The secret of the Christian life is to be filled and continually filled with God, our Father’s agape love. [Agape is the pure love which comes solely from God – it is sacrificial and completely unselfish for the sole benefit of the recipient]. We are therefore mere reflectors of His glory, of His light, of His agape. **The extent to which we reflect is the extent to which we are being transformed!**

“ But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord”. **2 Corinthians 3: 18.**

So often , we like to think that God needs us, more than we need Him. We like to think that we are indispensable, so important for His needs to promulgate the Gospel, the good news of the Kingdom of God, that we somehow, in our own perverted way, make ourselves indispensable. Somehow we manage to kid ourselves that God needs us and our abilities and that without us God can’t work in the world. Do not be deceived! Whenever the Almighty God moves by the power of His Holy Spirit, men and women drop like ten-pins in fear that they are heading to oblivion, that they are on the fast track to Hell! This is when men and women repent and mean it ! It is, as always and without exception, a humbling, knee bowing experience which transforms a person’s life permanently.

Present yourself to be knee-capped by God! This is when men and women have that irreversible life changing experience ! People change when God wills, not by the will of the flesh or men!
John 1:13

Question: What sort of light shines out of me? What colour is it?
 Any colour other than white is the wrong colour!
 If the light in me is darkness, then how great is that darkness!
Matthew 5:16; 6:22-23

14. There is a sober warning. If we lose our flavour in the world, that is, water down our relationship with our Godhead (Father, Son - Jesus Christ and The Holy spirit), then we will be cast out, trampled under foot by our God, and placed on a dunghill ! This is a direct warning to all who call themselves Christian. Jesus warned the Jews that even though they were direct descendents of Abraham and therefore were God's "Chosen Ones" this in itself was no guarantee that they would be regarded as such by God since they were hell-bent on trying to murder Jesus Christ because of jealousy and hatred in their hearts shown towards Him **John 8: 30 - 47**. If we translate this into our context today it means that we may not be going to heaven where God is just because we say we are Christians and Jesus Christ is our Lord and Saviour. The reason is two-fold: we must be doing the will of our Father in Heaven; and, we must be in the continuing walk of being led by the Holy Spirit **Romans 8: 1, 14; Galatians 5: 25**

Question: Do I agape the Lord one hundred per cent? If I don't, then am I going to make the necessary changes in my life?

END