



**“Ye are the salt of the earth: but if the salt have lost his savour, wherewith shall it be salted? it is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men.”** (Matt 5:13) Have you ever considered sin an alloy? It could easily be so considered. It is inextricably mixed in the nature of humankind. Jesus spoke well when He said that we should be the "salt of the earth." (Matt 5:13)

God made salt and He knows, better than any other, the nature of salt. Salt, NaCl, is a compound of Sodium (a soft yellow metal) and chlorine (an invisible, odorless gas). Both are poison when taken separately. Sodium is never found in nature in its pure state. It will always be joined to some other element such as carbon, hydrogen, oxygen, etc. In order to form salt that we use at the table, the pure substance, it must be separated from those elements and joined to chlorine. Chlorine is a deadly gas used in WWI as a chemical warfare weapon. But when joined to the soft metal, sodium, it forms an essential for life. If we look upon Chlorine gas as being as deadly as the rejection of God is to the sinner; and sodium as the sinner always joined to worldly elements without God, then the words of Jesus makes more sense. If not joined to God, the sinner will always be joined to other elements of the world. We bring our best treasure to God - our hearts. We may enjoy that holy state and joy if we are joined to Christ and remain separate from the world.

If salt is left sitting on the earth for a prolonged period of time, the sodium will begin to separate from the chlorine and will begin to unite with other elements of the earth. It will no longer be salt that is essential for life, but an altogether different compound. The Christian who spends too much time in contact with the world and its elements, as Lot experienced while in Sodom, his heart will begin to separate from his spiritual graces and virtues as those are replaced by the vices and sins peculiar to the world.

“He was a burning and a shining light: and ye were willing for a season to rejoice in his light.” The Light John bore was not truly his own light, but it was the Light of Christ. John was a mirror only to reflect the Light and was not the generator of it. The moon is merely the reflector of that great light of the Sun and is not the generator thereof for it cannot be. You and I, too, may be those lower lights referred to in that old hymn, *Brightly Beams our Father’s Mercy*. God Himself is the great Searchlight sent out from the Lighthouse across the stormy waves and shoals. Men, at their wits end in fighting the sails and helm, look with salty eyes into the gloom and, “Look! A Lighthouse” beams its hope from secure harbor to their frightful and foundering vessel. They bear toward it

for it is their only hope. Coming near to harbor, there remains to be navigated among the salient bars and hidden rocks of the harbor. But God has provided Lower Lights (His people) to guide the vessel to safe port and anchorage beneath that great Light that saved them. Have you lately been a Lower Light for Christ? If so, your light is not your own, but the reflected Light of the Light of the World. Like the Moon in eclipse, if the world gets between you and that great Light, your light will be darkness.

We read in Matthew 5 that Jesus calls us (believers) the light of the world: **“Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hid”** (Matt 5:14) (KJV) and later Jesus proclaims Himself the Light of the World. Is this a contradiction? Not at all. Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, **I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.** (John 8:12) Jesus is the Sun of Righteousness. The light of the moon is actually the reflected light of the sun just as our light is only the reflected light of our Sun of Righteousness. Light has some amazing characteristics. It reveals truth – those things that have been hidden in darkness. It shows the safe way to walk. It gives life to all that lives. It is comprised of every color of the rainbow when filtered through a prism. And light is honest – it ALWAYS travels in a straight line. If our light is the reflected Light of Christ, that Light will bear fruit in the hearts of untold numbers.