

"GOOD FOR NOTHING" CHRISTIANS #1

INTRODUCTION:

- A. Christians are special people with special purpose 1Pet 2:9
- B. Yet, can become unfaithful in duty Gal 5:4
- C. Scripture reveals several different pictures of those who have by choice become ineffective in Gods kingdom.
- D. They are shown to be "good for nothing" concerning glorifying God and influencing others for good.

DISCUSSION:

I. **SALT THAT HAS LOST ITS SAVOR** Matt 5:13

- A. Salt essential to human and animal diet
 - 1. Makes food more appetizing
 - 2. Preservative
 - 3. Medicine
- B. Savor lost: Palestinian salt, lacking purity, lost its savor rather easily
 - 1. Careless storage allowed it to ruin
 - 2. Sun or moisture would ruin it
 - 3. Thrown into the footpath - it was of no use elsewhere
- C. God's people as salt
 - 1. Preserving world: Gen 6:8; Gen 18:24
 - 2. Healing power: Lk 5:31; Rom 1:16; 2Cor 5:20
 - 3. Influence for good 1Pet 3:1,2
 - 4. Salt not always visible, but vitally missed when not present Rev 14:13 (influence lives on)
- D. Christian in constant danger of losing effectiveness
 - 1. Idleness or worldliness cause lost influence
 - 2. With no good influence we are good for nothing (must be thrown out)
- E. With God's help, influence and effectiveness can be regained by repentance and forgiveness 2Cor 7:6-11

II. **A LIGHT UNDER A BUSHEL** Matt 5:14-16

- A. Light dispels darkness
 - 1. Supports life
 - 2. Makes food (photosynthesis)
 - 3. Direct or indirect source of all power
- B. God's people called lights: Phil 2:15; 1Thess 5:5
- C. Christians hold up God's word the light Psa 119:105
Turn them from darkness to light Acts 26:18
- D. Men in darkness & sin doomed to death Rom 6:23;
Gospel of Christ is life giving Jhn 14:6
- E. Power in light: saving power in Gospel Rom 1:16
(Note Isa 55:11)
 - 1. Power to give life whether direct or reflected

- 2. Reflected light - we exemplify Christ 1Pet 2:21
Matt 5:16; 2Cor 3:2 Note: Eph. 5:8

- F. Putting our light under a bushel cause us to be good for nothing - of no more use than salt that lost it savor
 - 1. If we are not lights we are in darkness
 - 2. Walk in darkness we lie & do not truth 1Jhn 1:6
 - 3. All liars have part in lake of fire Rev 21:8
- G. If our light is dim or has gone out, with God's help, it can be rekindled through repentance Acts 8:18-24

CONCLUSION:

- A. It becomes obvious that one can become "good for nothing" as a child of God.
- B. Reaching that point God will "spue us out" Rev 3:16
- C. It takes work to be of use, i.e. be good influence and give light.
- D. Are you and am I "good for nothing"? 2Cor 13:5
(idea for lesson from Dan Richardson)