

## **We Flavor! We Preserve! Or Do We?**

*Let your conversation be always full of grace,  
seasoned with salt, so that you may know how  
to answer everyone. Colossians 4:6*

### **Review:**

**Abiding in Jesus:** Come, Listen, Love, Obey, Follow, Imitate, Proclaim

**Jesus Sees Crowds:** Equips his men, Stirs their hearts, Preps them for battle

### **Why Salt?**

“You are the salt of the earth,”

**Salt flavors:** Christ's true disciples add “Jesus flavor” to their families, churches, communities, cultures, by accurately imitating Jesus in word & deed.

**Salt preserves:** True disciples preserve families, churches, communities, and cultures from the rot of lies, sin, and evil, by imitating Jesus in word & deed.

### **How Does Salt Lose Its Saltiness?**

“but, if the salt loses its saltiness,”

#### **Dilution by other minerals**

If we dilute Christ's teaching, either by failing to clean out old ideas from our immaturity or by adding man's theories, our imitation of Christ weakens / blurs.

Rom 1:18-22; I Cor 1:20

### **Can Such Salt Be Restored?**

“how can it be made salty again?”

**No?** Once a man or woman realizes that there is safety in insipidity, they are usually committed to staying safe and hiding their error. Gal 6:12

### **What Good is Such Salt?**

#### **Answer number 1:**

“It is no longer good for anything,”

Such salt no longer worked for flavoring or preservation.

To the extent that we leave God's wisdom for doctrines & teachings of men, we become worthless as an influence for Christ. We're bad Jesus flavor and bad societal preservation. Jn 15:18-20

#### **Answer number 2:**

“except to be thrown out and trampled by men.”

Such salt was thrown onto foot paths and roadways to stop weeds from growing. It was therefore walked on by man and beast.

Diluted Christians, churches, nations are “given over” by God, as he allows other worldviews and religions to trample them down. See Rom 1:24, 26, 28

**Answer number 3:** While salt could not be restored, God, in His power, mercy and grace may restore a falling disciple. Such restoration will be marked by a renewed commitment to faithful learning of God's word, abandoning once-held false teachings, and a growing, faithful imitation of Christ in word & deed.

### **The Metaphor Applied:**

**We must each continue** to boldly, clearly proclaim the true Jesus and preach, teach, counsel, and advise His true teachings.

We should do so, even if threatened with “insulting, persecuting, and vilifying.”

If we do so, our salt retains its flavor and we preserve a good testimony of God's Kingdom in our family, church, community, and culture.

**But what if we quit** boldly proclaiming the true Jesus and His true teachings?

What if we each cave in to the threat of “insulting, persecuting, and vilifying?”

We are then, like salt losing its saltiness, worthless in preserving a good testimony of God, Christ, and their Kingdom.

**History is filled** with gospel-infused churches, denominations, nations, and cultures that gradually lost their gospel-savor.

They then collapsed as other religions and world-views “trampled them under their feet.”

Those who held to the true Jesus and His true teachings simply stepped aside out of fear, discomfort, or a desire to “keep the peace.”

### **Repent of Syncretism** (Mixing of different religions/cultures/worldviews)

#### **How does one pursue restoration from syncretism?**

Believe all of God's word is all true, and learn it accordingly John 17:17

Believe adding contradictions to God's word dilutes/pollutes it Matt 15:6; Mk 7:7-8

Preach, teach, counsel, or advise from God's “whole counsel” 2 Tim 3:16-17  
(or from sources that are completely in submission to its instruction)

### **Pursuing Salty Saltiness**

#### **God destined us to be salty salt**

For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the likeness of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. Rom 8:29

#### **Christ calls us salty salt**

Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is--his good, pleasing and perfect will. Rom 12:1-2

#### **God provides all we need to be salty salt**

His divine power has given us everything we need for life and godliness through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness. 2 Pet 1:3