**Impression VS Impact**

 “What one generation tolerates, the next generation will embrace.” John Wesley

“If the church marries herself to the spirit of the times, she will find herself a widow in the next generation.” Charles Stanley

**Matthew 5:13-16 (NIV)**
**Mt 5:13** “You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled by men.

**Mt 5:14** “You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden.
**Mt 5:15** Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house.

**Mt 5:16** In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven.

**Matthew 5:13-16 (MSG)**
“Let me tell you why you’re here. You’re here to be salt-seasoning that brings out the God-flavors of this earth. If you lose your saltiness, how will people taste godliness? You’ve lost your usefulness and will end up in the garbage.

Here’s another way to put it: You’re here to be light, bringing out the God-colors in the world. God is not a secret to be kept. We’re going public with this, as public as a city on a hill.

If I make you light-bearers, you don’t think I’m going to hide you under a bucket, do you? I’m putting you on a light stand. Now that I’ve put you there on a hilltop, on a light stand – shine!

Keep open house; be generous with your lives. By opening up to others, you’ll prompt people to open up with God, this generous Father in heaven.”

**We should not ask, "What is wrong with the world?" for that diagnosis has already been given. Rather, we should ask, "What has happened to the salt and light?"
John R. W. Stott**

 **Seasoned For Purpose**

**Matthew 5:13 (NIV)** 13 “You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled by men. [[1]](#footnote-1)

Either of the main functions of *salt*, as flavor or as preservative, fits the image. The rabbis used salt as a symbol for wisdom (*loses its saltiness* is [[2]](#footnote-2)lit. ‘Becomes foolish’).[[3]](#footnote-3)

In a world that is in desperate need of the flavor of God, this is where we find that the believer is made to impact the world with His “saltiness.”

“What have you given the world it never possessed before you came?”
**Billy Sunday**

God equips us with the salty flavor. We have to be willing to go deeper than making an impression, to making an impact.

**Impression**: impression n. An effect, feeling, or image retained as a consequence of experience. A vague notion, remembrance, or belief

**Impact**: to have a direct effect or impact on **:**impinge on

“We are told to let our light shine, and if it does, we won't need to tell anybody it does. Lighthouses don't fire cannons to call attention to their shining- they just shine.”

**Dwight L. Moody**

**Showcased For Persistence**

**Matthew 5:14-15 (NIV)** 14 “You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden. 15 Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house.

Christ showcases you and me, the Christ followers of the world, in order that we might be seen.

There are moments in my life that I would want no one to see me, for I feel as if I’m not “showcase” worthy.

We have to realize that we are living in a world without power, in total darkness, and we are to be the “switch” in which they can turn on in order to see the gospel shine forth.

James 1:27 helps us see that we are to refuse to let the world corrupt you stay pure and persistent in the gospel in showcasing Jesus in whatever you do.

Persistence: the continuance of an effect after the cause of it has stopped

“Unless God has raised you up for this very thing, you will be worn out by the opposition of men and devils. But if God be for you, who can be against you? Are all of them together stronger than God? O be not weary of well doing!”
― John Wesley

**Saved For Praise**

**Matthew 5:16 (NIV)** 16 In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven. [[4]](#footnote-4)

On a daily basis would you say that your life could be seen by others as one who truly knows and praises the Lord in all aspects of your life?

I think that we have been raised to think that works are a bad thing. Works are not bad in themselves, it is the motivation and inspiration behind them that can be bad.

In fact this verse calls us to “let our light shine…….see your good deeds” so that they will praise the “Father in Heaven.”

We are saved so that we will want to do great things for Christ, and through our works others will see His light shining through us, and we will not just impress them but we will impact them to worship Christ.

In the smallest of things done for the gospel, the greatest of glory is given to Christ. In the greatest of things done for the gospel, the greatest of glory is given to Christ.

We are given light for the purpose of praise.

Brings a new meaning to Col 3:23:

**Colossians 3:23 (NIV)** 23 Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men, [[5]](#footnote-5)

Will you make a great impression or make a great impact?

1. *The Holy Bible : New International Version*. electronic ed. Grand Rapids : Zondervan, 1996, c1984 [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. lit. literally [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Carson, D. A.: *New Bible Commentary : 21st Century Edition*. 4th ed. Leicester, England; Downers Grove, Ill., USA : Inter-Varsity Press, 1994, S. Mt 5:11 [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. *The Holy Bible : New International Version*. electronic ed. Grand Rapids : Zondervan, 1996, c1984 [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. *The Holy Bible : New International Version*. electronic ed. Grand Rapids : Zondervan, 1996, c1984 [↑](#footnote-ref-5)