

# ***The Compass Of Our Mission***



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***“Ye are the salt of the earth: but if the salt have lost its savor, wherewith shall it be salted? It is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men. Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hid. Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.” Matthew 5: 13-16.***

A preacher was witnessing to folks on the street and when one man walked past the preacher said: ***“Do you know what the two greatest problems in the world today are?”*** To which the man replied: ***“I don’t know and I don’t care!”*** The preacher cried out: ***“You have nailed them both my friend!”***

**Today**, across the globe, there is a type of apathy that the world has never seen before. This is a world that does not know a thing about God and His goodness – and they do not care! They do not know a thing about the holiness of God and His perfect judgment to come – and they do not care! They know nothing about God’s saving grace – and they do not care! Society has grown far, far away from the God of heaven and closer and closer to the gods of this wicked world. And they are moving farther and farther away from Him every day...and they do not care!

**There** is a caterpillar called the ***Processional Caterpillar*** which walks in long lines following the caterpillar in front of them so closely that they look like one long white, fuzzy line crossing the ground or climbing a tree. One day a fellow saw some of them walking on the side of a flower vase in his garden. There were several standing around so, he picked them up and put them one behind another, until there was one solid line going around the vase. They walked, following the one in front of them, around the vase for one solid week, nonstop! He measured around the outside of the vase, the total distance walked was nearly one mile. They may never have stopped had he not took them apart and then they went on their separate ways.

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**The** picture for us is clear. There are many who will follow whoever walks in front of them, wherever they lead, whatever they lead to. We are watching it play out all around us today. People just walking along, following the crowd, walking into the abyss of hell, happy as they can be, just doing what everyone else does.

**That's where we (The Children of God) come in.**

***“A Compass is a navigational instrument that shows direction in a frame of reference that is stationary to the surface of the earth.”*** The statement ***“frame of reference”*** is defined as ***“The four cardinal directions or points of North, South, East, and West.”*** A compass shows you what direction you are heading in comparison to those *Cardinal Directions*. The *Magnetic Compass* was first invented as a device for divination as early as the *Chinese Han Dynasty* or about 267 B.C. It was used to navigate land by the Chinese Military by 1040 A.D. and in Maritime navigation, by the Chinese Navy, by 1111 A.D. Always pointing to Magnetic North, it can give you direction, letting you know when you are on the right course or when you are headed in the wrong direction, but it always points you in the direction that you are going; right direction or wrong direction it shows you where you are headed. It never switches off, constantly pointing out the way that you are heading, helping you to reach your destination.

**In** our Scripture text, Matthew 5: 13-16, we are given the most pointed of Biblical mandates for the direction of our Spiritual lives. The Lord gives the perfect Mission Statement for every child of God. As we live, in this present world, we are to be:

- ***“...the salt of the earth...” 5: 13.***
- ***“...the light of the world...” 5: 14.***

**Our** mission compass is always pointing us toward salt and light...that is our mission, in this present world, as the people of God!

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**Christians**...let's look at the direction that our Spiritual Compass is pointing and then the actual direction that we are heading.

**First** let me say that there is no Spiritual Compass for those who do not know Jesus Christ as their Savior...make no claims to be a Christian...and are outside the family of God. Some of them know that, some do not, and some arrogantly don't care. But, there still is a Spiritual Compass for their lives:

***"The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance." II Pet. 3: 9.***

***"Who will have all men be saved, and come unto the knowledge of the truth."***  
***II Timothy 2: 4.***

The Spiritual Compass for the lost always points to salvation, to forgiveness, to repentance, to being born again through the blood of Jesus Christ, freely given to all who come to Him. That's the direction each lost person is to be headed and without salvation through Jesus Christ...they will each, one day soon, arrive at their final destination of a devil's hell! Follow God's Compass for you today!

**Here** are four important pieces of information about salt and light for each of our lives:

1. **Salt** – Describes our state of being – Matthew 5: 13 ***"ye are the salt of the earth..."***

**The** Apostle Paul told the Church at Corinth, in I Corinthians 15: 10 ***"But by the grace of God I am what I am..."*** So, what are you? What have you become, my fellow Believer, for the cause of Christ and Kingdom of God?

- Are you strong Spiritually?

- Are you experiencing success in the things of God?

**What** kind of salt are you? Are you salty salt or have you lost your flavoring? Our state of being is exactly who we really are. Not a false face or mask hiding our reality from the world, but it is the demonstration of our living exactly as God sees it! He knows who and what we are...where we have been and are going...He knows what we may hide from others...He knows how salty we really are! He knows if we are right on course...or headed in the wrong direction...He knows!

- James 1: 25 ***“But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed.”***

**Look** into God’s mirror today (His Holy Book) and tell yourself what you see. Are you still salt or have you lost your savor?

2. **Light** – Describes our state of doing – Luke 8: 16 ***“that they which enter may see the light...”***

**The** light of our living is to be seen by all who enter the area that we are living in...without any exceptions...at work, at school, at sports, on vacation, at home when we are alone...we are to be the light of the world (Matthew 5: 14)! We are not to be *hidden* Christians, we are to be public Christians for all of the world to see!

- II Corinthians 3: 2-3 tells us that we are the only Bible portrait that many people ever see, therefore we are to be ***“Known and read of all men.”*** We call this *our testimony* and it is always what we do, not what we say.
3. **Salt** – Is to preserve good in the world – Mark 9: 50 ***“Salt is good: but if the salt have lost its saltiness, wherewith will ye season it? Have salt in yourselves, and have peace with one another.”***

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**Salt** is seasoning that helps in preservation. Salt curing meat, especially pork, presents us the best picture of such preservation. As Christians, we should be making things better, by our presence, and by our actions...not worse! We should be preserving the good in society. We can preserve the good with our words and our deeds. This is what God has created us and called us to do:

***“For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.” Ephesians 2: 10.***

4. **Light** – Is to demonstrate our righteous living in the world – Ephesians 5: 8  
***“For ye were sometimes in darkness, but now are ye light in the Lord: walk as children of light.”***

**Once** we were in darkness (unsaved and sold out to the whims of the world), but now we are in the light of the saving grace of Almighty God, in His Son, Jesus the Christ!

**Little** Janie listened to the Preacher’s entire message. He talked about being the “light” every day and every place. On the way home she says ***“Mommy, am I the light too?”*** ***“Yes, honey, you are the light of Jesus, just like every other Christian.”*** All day long she tried to be good, remembering the Preacher and her Mother’s words ***“You are the light of the world.”*** Late in the afternoon, she got angry with her older sister and threw her toys across the room, began yelling, and fighting with her. Into the room runs Mom... ***“What is going on!”*** ***“Janie, don’t you remember the message from this morning? You are the Light like Jesus!”*** Janie replied: ***“Yes Momma, I remember, but I blowed myself out!”***

**Wow!** What words of wisdom! How often do we blow ourselves out and stop our light from shining?

I contend that most of us do that every single day...we blow out our own light by our wrong actions. Have you ever done that?

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**Our** Christian Compass is always pointing us toward salt and light, always toward a Godly, righteous life before others. Who is it that should be carrying this compass?

- Philippians 2: 15 ***“That ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world.”***

**Those** who are called out of darkness – Should be shining brightly!

- Colossians 4: 5-6 ***“Walk in wisdom toward them that are without, redeeming the time. Let your speech be always with grace, seasoned with salt, that ye may know how ye ought to answer every man.”***

**Those** who are now filled with Spiritual salt – Seasoning the world with words and deeds!

**There** is the story of the Light House at Robbin’s Reef, off the rocky New England shore. The keeper of the lighthouse was Jacob Walker. He tended to the lighthouse with his wife and young son. Every night he walked up 93 steps to the top of the lighthouse to light the carbide light. Directly below the lighthouse was a horrific rocky strand, dangerous to any boat. Walker would fire the light, which could be seen for miles, and then for most of the night, he would stand on the catwalk, atop the lighthouse, watching for boats. When a boat was spotted, on a course into the bay, it had to cross by the rocky strand below the lighthouse. Walker would cry out, with a voice like thunder, ***“Mind the Light! Mind the Light! Mind the Light!”*** Many a sailor had reported hearing his booming voice before they ever noticed the revolving light.

**Sickness** claimed Jacob Walker’s life at an early age. His wife, Millie, took his place. For years, in every kind of weather, she walked up the 93 stairs, fired the carbide light, and manned the catwalk...crying to struggling boats...at the top of her lungs... ***“Mind the Light! Mind the Light! Mind the Light!”***

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**Young** Jacob Walker Jr. had watched his father and mother be the last warning to many small recreational boats and scores of commercial fishing vessels. He had heard the warning and seen the response. At the young age of 22 he buried his mother and picked up his parent's mantle of *Light Keeper at Robbin's Reef Lighthouse*. Every night climbing those 93 steps and firing the light, then walking the catwalk.

**Through** the process of his mother's funeral the local newspaper took interest in the story of the lighthouse. A reporter traveled to the sight to meet with Jacob Jr. He was given a first-class tour of the beautiful grounds and the historical facilities. As darkness came, the reporter and Jacob Jr. climbed the 93 steps to the light, fired it up, and moved outside onto the cat walk. In just a few moments a small light could be seen moving into the bay. Jacob Jr, with a voice not unlike his father's, like booming thunder, cried out: ***"Mind the Light! Mind the Light! Mind the Light!"*** to which the little boat responded as it moved around the rocks.

**The** reporter stayed all night. As morning broke, the reporter asked Jacob Jr. ***"Why do you still do this? There are so many other jobs a young man like you could do. You could get out of here and see the world!"*** To which Jacob Jr. said: ***"Just like my father and mother, I have a mission...a mission to protect those boats and ships from the crashing waves on that rocky strand...they need this light and I cannot fail to warn them of the danger! I must shine the light!"***

**Each** of us, who claim to be Christians, must follow the Compass that God has given to us...directing us to the Light and to the salt...we cannot fail...we cannot miss shining our light!

**Are you shining...are you being salt? Are you? Come before the Lord now...get back on track...start following that Compass.**