

## 7. The Salt Agenda for Today

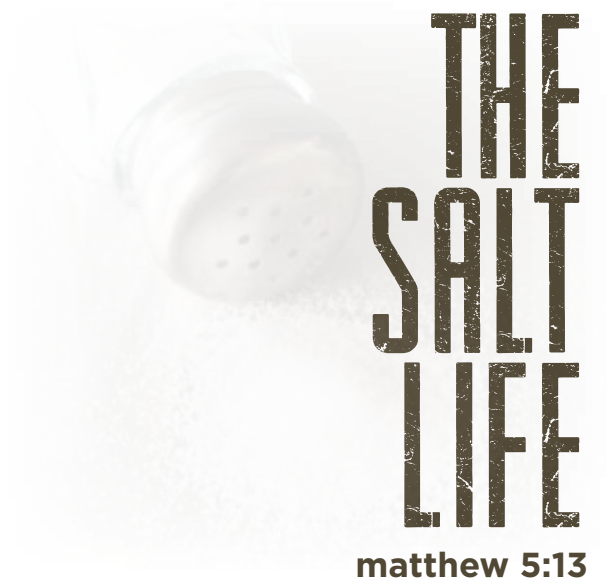
*Colossians 4:6* “Let your speech always be with grace, **seasoned with salt**, so that you may know how you should respond to each person.”

This Colossians verse is in the context of sharing the gospel of Yeshua, or Jesus. Paul told the Colossians to make the most of every opportunity to share the “Yeshua story” (The Jesus story) of how **Jesus had changed their lives, the way salt changes everything that is salted.**

## THE SALT LIFE AGENDA

“You are the salt of the earth.  
But if the salt should lose its  
taste, how can it be made salty?  
It’s no longer good for anything  
but to be thrown out and  
trampled on by men.”

Matthew 5:13



# SEVEN ON SALT

What the Bible says about “the Salt Life”

## 1. “The Salt of the Covenant”

*Leviticus 2:13* “Every grain offering of yours, you shall season with salt, so that **the salt of the covenant** of your God shall not be lacking from your grain offerings; with all your offerings you shall offer salt.”

Under the “salt of the covenant”, the grain offering required the addition of salt.

Leviticus 2:13 and Ezekiel 43:24 illustrate how the salt requirement was an essential part of ancient Hebrew religious sacrifices.

Thus – with salt – the Jewish people began the everlasting relationship with God.

## JESUS KNEW THE TRUTH ABOUT THE SALT LIFE

## 2. “An Everlasting Covenant of Salt”

*Numbers 18:19* “All the offerings of the holy gifts, which the sons of Israel offer to the Lord, I have given to you and your sons and your daughters with you, as a perpetual allotment. It is **an everlasting covenant of salt** before the Lord to you and your descendants with you.”

This Numbers text speaks to the covenant of salt between the people of Israel and Jehovah G – d. Israel never spoke the name of G – d, out of reverence and awe, using a substitute word to point to God. Therefore, out of respect I have used the Divine representation, G – d.

## SEVEN ON SALT WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS

## 3. The Line of David by a Covenant of Salt

*2 Chronicles 13:5* “Do you not know that the Lord God of Israel gave the rule over Israel forever to David and his sons by a covenant of salt?”

Salt, which does not decay, represented permanence in the ancient world. Today, we live in a “throw away” world – nothing seems to have an eternal quality that lasts! Via a covenant of salt, God gives the kingship rule over Israel to the line of David, a lineage with an eternal trajectory. Jesus is born into the family line of David, according to Matthew 1:1-17, specifically verse 6.

## OUR SALT LIFE CHALLENGE

## 4. Salt and the Sin Offering

*Ezekiel 43:24* “And you shall present them before the Lord, and the **priests shall throw salt on them, and they shall offer them up as a burnt offering to the Lord.**”

In Ezekiel 43, the Temple priests took the bull for the sin offering and the “male goat without blemish” for a sin offering, threw salt on them and offered them as an offering to the Lord. “Salt of the earth” people give themselves as living sacrifices.

## THE SALT LIFE TEST



## 5. Jesus on Salt

*Matthew 5:13* “You are **the salt of the earth**; but if the salt has lost its saltiness and become tasteless, how will it be salty again? It is good for nothing, except to be thrown away and walked upon.”

The Hebrew word for salt (“melach”) in Leviticus becomes the Greek word “halas”, or salt, in Matthew 5:13 where Jesus states we are the “salt of the earth”. As salt, as a preserving agent, Christians should slow down the decay of life on this planet.

Jesus’ “salt of the earth” statement is in the context of being persecuted for righteousness. If we follow Jesus, we should expect to be insulted, persecuted and falsely accused. If we choose to follow Christ, this is our future reality.

## THE OBVIOUS QUESTIONS

## 6. The Salt Agenda for Today

*Romans 12:1-2* “I urge you therefore by the mercies of God, to **present your bodies as a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship.**”

“And do not be conformed to this world, **(don’t lose your saltiness!)** but be transformed by the renewing of your mind **(by the recovery of your saltiness)**, that you may prove what the will of God is...”

In Romans 12, the Salt Agenda is implied, though not stated in those exact words. I would argue Paul is thinking about the salt added to Old Testament sacrifices. As we today offer our bodies as living sacrifices (with salt added) we are dying to self to live for G – d in Christ Jesus, to live for Christ in a hostile world.

## MATTHEW’S SALT MESSAGE