

(Matthew 5:13-16, NIV84)

"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. You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden. 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. In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven."

When I was a student at Bethany Lutheran College back in the late 80's, I sang in the choir. One of pieces our choir director, Professor Dennis Marzolf, chose for us to sing was a prayer by J.H. Newman put to music by Alexander Peloquin entitled: Radiating Christ. As I meditated on the above Bible passage I was reminded of the words of that amazingly powerful choral piece. The text of that song/prayer are below. I hope they are as moving and inspiring to you as they are to me.

Dear Jesus, help me to spread Thy fragrance
everywhere I go,
Flood my soul with Thy spirit and life.
Penetrate my whole being so utterly
that all my life may only be a radiance of Thine.
Shine through me
and so be in me that every soul I come in contact with
may feel Thy presence in my soul.

Let them look up and see no longer me,
but only Jesus.

Stay with me,
and then I shall begin to shine
as Thou shinest.

Stay with me,
so to be a light to others.

The Light, O Jesus,
will be all from Thee;
none of it will be mine;
it will be Thou shining on others through me.

Let me thus praise Thee
in the way Thou dost love best
by shining on those around me.

Let me preach Thee

without preaching,
not by words,
but by my example,
by the catching force of the sympathetic influence of what I
do,
the evident fullness of the love my heart bears to
Thee.
Amen.

In Christ, shining with you to the world,
Pastor Golm

May 21

Make All the Good People Nice

Adorn the doctrine of God, our Savior, in all things. Titus 2:10

A young mother was helping her five-year-old with her evening prayers. After concluding her formal prayers, the little girl paused for a moment, then added: "Dear God, make all the bad people good, and all the good people nice."

Exactly what she meant by this unusual prayer, we are not sure; but we do have a clue to the meaning of the second half of it. If only all the good people in the world were-nice! If only all who profess the Christian faith, who attend church, who work on committees and commissions, who represent the church to the world, were as pleasant and winsome as Christ's followers ought to be!

Occasionally those who profess to be doing the Lord's work display a brusqueness, a lovelessness, even a nastiness that ill becomes his disciples. Their very attitude belies their profession. In the language of our little girl, they are the "good people" who aren't "nice".

The apostle asks us to "adorn the doctrine of God". Another translation of this verse reads: "Add luster to the doctrine of God our Savior." We are to be loving, gentle, kind, always displaying the fruits of the doctrine we profess. Are we among the "good people" who are "nice"? Pray God we are!

And having prayed, let us strive for continued growth in those Christian graces which will be attractive to those with whom we have daily

contact-both inside and outside the church. Let our lives sparkle as they "adorn the doctrine of God", drawing the attention and, with the Spirit's help, winning the approval of our fellowmen. To that end, we repeat the poet's words:

Make me to walk in Thy commands,-'Tis a delightful road,-
Nor let my head or heart or hands Offend against my God.
Assist my soul, too apt to stray, A stricter watch to keep;
And should I e'er forget Thy way, Restore Thy wand'ring sheep.

(Devotion from: Daily Walk With God - Meditations for Every Day, by Herman W. Gockel)