

(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."

What follows are timeless words of encouragement for we Christians who inhabit the greatest nation on earth. Let us each recognize our role as citizens of two kingdoms, God's heavenly kingdom and the earthly kingdom God has so graciously placed us in.

"God bless America, Land that I love; Stand beside her and guide her, Thru the night with a light from above."

Thankful with you in Christ,  
Pastor Golm

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July 4

Christian Citizenship

Ye are the salt of the earth. Matthew 5:13

Today the citizens of the United States are celebrating the birthday of our nation. What should be the Christian's role in such a celebration? As grateful children of our heavenly Father we will, of course, want to thank him for the uncounted blessings he has showered on our land. Truly, he has blessed us beyond measure.

But we will want to do more than merely give thanks. Our Lord, who gave his life for us, has told us that we are to be "the salt of the earth". That applies not only to our private lives as individual Christians, but also to our civic lives as Christian citizens. As salt, we are to help preserve the health of our nation; we are to help prevent the spread of corruption.

Many sincere believers feel uncomfortable when it comes to taking part in governmental affairs. This is due, in many cases, to a lifelong misconception of the idea of "separation of church and state". The Christian is not only a practicing member of his church; he is (or should be) a practicing member of his community, his city, his state, and his nation.

Having rendered unto God the things that are God's, he must also discharge his rightful obligations to the community in which he lives.

How desperately our nation needs the salt of Christian witness and action! Dishonesty, greed, profanity, divorce, and sins of sexual impurity are all about us. In concert with other God-fearing citizens, we are to do all within our power to hold back the spread of moral decay which threatens our land. Salt that is not applied is worthless. We are to pray, to speak, to work for the welfare of the land we love. Are we doing that?

Lord, while for all mankind we pray, Of every clime and coast,  
Oh, hear us for our native land, The land we love the most. Amen.

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