

“FIGURES THAT DESCRIBE A CHRISTIAN”

As one reads the New Testament, there are different figures that describe a Christian. Each of these figures has a point to make and teaches us **how we are to live, act, and conduct ourselves in this life**. We have one life to live and need to make sure it is the right kind of life – one that is pleasing to the Lord. Paul understood this when he made the statement in I Cor. 11:1: *“Be ye imitators of me, even as I also am of Christ.”* Paul made this request with the full assurance that his life was worthy of following. It should be the same for each of us who claim to be a child of God. We should be living the right kind of life and willing for others to take a look at our life and do likewise.

The word “**LIGHT**” is used as a figure to describe a Christian: *“14 Ye are the light of the world,”* Matt. 5:14. Please let us be reminded, there are others looking at our lives and concluding whether it is worth living as we do. Those who are looking are called, **“the world.”** And we should be looking to ourselves to make sure we are giving the right kind of message to the world! God is said to be light and when we are like God, we also will be light. Light destroys darkness – the two cannot exist together. Either you will love the one or hate the other, Matt. 6:20-24. This does not mean a person will live a perfect life, I Jno. 1:8-9; thus, there is a need to take inventory of our lives, and keep ourselves in the light by confessing wrong doing, and being cleansed of that which is sin. We are to be **“the light of the world.”**

In II Cor. 3:2, Paul said: *“2 Ye are our **epistles**, written in our hearts, known and read of all men.”* An “epistle” is a “**LETTER**,” or I might say a “**book**.” According to Paul we write this book, and it is read of all men. This would mean, others are taking a look at what is being written. What is being written is what we do in life and the impression that is being made - the testimony that is being given to others. What we **think**, what we **show**, and what we **tell others** is being digested; processed, and conclusions drawn as to whether it is good or bad. Remember, a book is being written and others are reading the acts and deeds of our lives – we need to be careful what we do and say.

“**SALT**” is another figure used to show a Christian’s influence. When I was a child, I remember the salt-box in which we put meat, (pork) to be preserved for the winter. From this box we would take meat, clean the salt off and use it for seasoning and for the designated meat, for a meal. Salt preserved the meat! In the same manner, the life of a Christian is to be as **“the salt of the earth,”** Matt. 5:13. When a Christian does not live as he should and has not influence for good, he has lost his saltiness. If salt loses its saltiness, it is good for nothing and is cast away, so is the child of God who has lost his mission in life. We are in this life for the purpose of influencing people for good. We need to do just that.

“**LIGHT**,” “**EPISTLE**,” and “**SALT**” describe the Christian and his influence for good. We need to make sure we are truly, “light,” “epistle,” and “salt,” reaching out and touching the lives of others. This is the solemn duty of each and every Christian.

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