

GROUP-LIFE Pr.Victor Barreira

READ Mat 5:13-14 *You are the light of the world...*

btw- don't make decisions in the dark: Back in the day, there was this cheap old farmer who was rebuking his hired man for carrying a lantern when he went to call on his girl. "Why, when I went to see my girl, I never carried one of them things. I always went in the dark." "Yeah," the hired man said, "and look what you got!"

A. GOD IS LIGHT.

What is light for - To shine in dark places. Light is pure, transparent, holy, loving, and graceful.

"You are the salt of the world..."

What is salt? Salt preserves. Salt adds flavor! How many know God has added 'flavor' to your life!

B. WE ARE SALT

"If the salt loses it's flavor, it gets trampled on."

"Salt was used by conquering armies to punish a defeated people. The soldiers would trample salt into the soil, thereby preventing crops from growing for many years."

- Communism spread because the church began to lose its 'saltiness' in society.
- We must have God's vision to leave a STRONG vibrant church for our grandchildren. Otherwise the church will be 'trampled on' because of its ineffectiveness to spread and reach and be a light.

C. WE NEED VISION

"Without vision my people perish" Proverbs 29:18

- Vision is LIGHT. Our goal is the city – one life at a time.

D. HOW WILL WE GROW? Fellowship Group.

Why Group Life? There are literally dozens of reasons why we are called to join together. The bible says 'We are filthily joined together.'

- Sunday Morning is like 'watching a movie'. It is for the most part where we RECEIVE.
- Fellowship group is where you are GIVING. According to Jesus, it is BETTER for you to give than to receive. To sum it up, - it is where you grow the fastest and strongest in Christ because you are giving your life for the cause. GroupLife is where you experience what church is all about – you and others with God in the midst of you.
- The more light comes together, the stronger the light becomes, the less powerful the darkness is! When we invite someone who needs Christ into fellowship, as they hear testimony after testimony in your group, it is in that setting where they are most likely to welcome God's life and forgiveness. The LIGHT in that room dispels the darkness.

Some of the Things I Saw in Group-Life

- Connection. You can be lonely in a church and in a Coliseum! But in a church of fellowship, it doesn't matter if it's 20 or 20,000, everyone is connected together.
- Support *Heb 10:25* "Let us not give up meeting together... but let us encourage one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching." I believe it will not just be an option to connect, but in these last days it will be VITAL to connect. There will be a 'falling away' of the faith. Who are they? It is those that never really grasped what the church was all about and how they were to fit in.
- Job Opportunities 'they did not lack anything'
- Matches Made – I've seen singles being brought together thru group life!
- Salvation – I had the blessing of leading young men to Christ in small group.
- Purpose: In Fellowship, we all have the opportunity to make a disciple for Christ. *Go and make disciples!*
Mt 28:19

What Are the Results?

A Healthy Church is made up of healthy communities, which are made up of healthy people, which are nourished in small group, which congregate together to celebrate what God is doing in our community as a whole.

E. WHAT HAPPENS NEXT? REPLANT

- As we become more light and salt, God will replant us to spread light thru the community.