

**Union United Methodist Church**

Sermon Outline: **Blessed to Be A Blessing, Part 5**

February 5<sup>th</sup>, 2023. Pastor Michael Larbi

Readings: **1 Corinthians 2; Matthew 5:13-20**

**1. Recall from last 4 weeks (outlines & sermons on <https://unionumcnc.com>)**

- *January 8: Identity & Purpose*
- *January 15: Divine Calling & Divine Grace for the call (1 Corinthians 1:1-9)*
- *January 22: Blessed & Entrusted with the Gospel; Called to fish for people*
- *January 29: Nature of Blessings: static & dynamic; Power of the Gospel - must be preached, taught, and demonstrated as Jesus did.*

**2. Blessed With Divine Eternal Life: Light of the World, Salt of the Earth**

○ **The Life in Jesus, the Light of all mankind**

Please go back to sermon of October 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2022. It covers this in some depth.

John 1 - NIV

**4 In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind.**

5 The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

- Greek, the original language of the New Testament, has 3 words to describe life: *bios*, *zōē*, *psuchē*<sup>1</sup>
- All three words are found in the NT, and the context helps with their meaning.
  - ***psuchē*** - means our "natural life" or "personality"<sup>2</sup>
  - ***bios*** - describes a person's "livelihood" or "physical sustenance."<sup>3</sup>
  - ***zōē*** - this is used to denote "**divine, eternal life**" - **the life of God**<sup>4</sup>

**"In him was life [*zōē*], and that life was the light of all mankind."**

John 1:4 NIV

Same word is seen in John 3:16 and John 10:10, for instance.

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<sup>1</sup> Holman Treasury of Key Bible Words: 200 Greek and 200 Hebrew Words Defined And Explained

<sup>2</sup> Ibid

<sup>3</sup> Ibid

<sup>4</sup> Ibid

- **The Life in Jesus, the Light of all mankind**

Jesus said, as his disciples, we are the light of the world. The life of God in us [zōē] is the light of the world

- Jesus said about himself:

**“As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.”**

John 9:5 NRSV

- But then he said to his disciples (including us)

**“You are the salt of the earth;** but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything, but is thrown out and trampled under foot.

**“You are the light of the world.** A city built on a hill cannot be hid. 15No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. 16In the same way, **let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.”**

Matthew 5:14-16 NIV

### **3. Blessing Others: Letting Our Light Shine, Being Salt of the Earth**

- **Jesus Modelled this for us:**

- In his prayer life
- Dependence on the Father

Jesus said to them, “Very truly, I tell you, the Son can do nothing on his own, but only what he sees the Father doing; for whatever the Father does, the Son does likewise.” John 5:19 NRSV

- A life of obedience
- Letting God’s power flow through him in ministry to others (e.g., Mark 5)

- **Paul Modelled this as well : 1 Corinthians 2**

- **It's all about Christ Jesus, Christ Crucified, the Spirit and Power of God**

"When I came to you, brothers, **I did not come proclaiming the mystery of God to you in lofty words or wisdom.** <sup>2</sup>For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and him crucified. <sup>3</sup>And I came to you in weakness and in fear and in much trembling. **4My speech and my proclamation were not with plausible words of wisdom, but with a demonstration of the Spirit and of power, <sup>5</sup>so that your faith might rest not on human wisdom but on the power of God."**

1 Corinthians 1:1-5 NRSV

- Successful witness demonstrates the Spirit and power of the gospel
- People's faith must rest on the power of God, not our wisdom.
- It's not about how eloquent or smart or wise we are!

- **Spiritual Wisdom is Important but for the mature**

**"Yet among the mature we do speak wisdom, though it is not a wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age,** who are doomed to perish. <sup>7</sup>But **we speak God's wisdom, secret and hidden,** which God decreed before the ages for our glory."

1 Corinthians 2:6-7 NRSV

- **A Spiritual Life, with full dependence on the Holy Spirit is critical**

- **It is the Holy Spirit who reveals things to us.**

"As it is written,

What no eye has seen, nor ear heard,  
nor the human heart conceived,  
what God has prepared for those who love him"—

**these things God has revealed to us through the Spirit; for the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God.** <sup>11</sup>For what human being knows what is truly human except the human spirit that is within? So also **no one comprehends what is truly God's except the Spirit of God.** " 1 Corinthians 2:9-11 NRSV

- **Through the Holy Spirit we understand the gifts God has given us.**

“Now **we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit that is from God, so that we may understand the gifts bestowed on us by God.**” 1 Corinthians 2:12

- **Spiritual Gifts are spiritually discerned, only received by the spiritual**

“**Those who are unspiritual do not receive the gifts of God's Spirit, for they are foolishness to them, and they are unable to understand them because they are spiritually discerned. 15Those who are spiritual discern all things**” 1 Corinthians 2:14-15 NRSV.

#### **4. The Gospel - Entrusted To Us**

- Remember: We are called to be Ambassadors of Christ.  
2 Corinthians 5:18-20 NIV
- **Remember: We have an obligation to preach the Gospel**  
“If I proclaim the gospel, this gives me no ground for boasting, for **an obligation is laid on me, and woe to me if I do not proclaim the gospel!**”  
1 Corinthians 9:16 NRSV
- **God’s love should urge us on to share the Gospel, not live for ourselves**  
14For Christ’s love compels us, ... 15And he died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again.” 2 Corinthians 5:14-15
- **We are called to proclaim, teach, and demonstrate the gospel:**  
But how are they to call on one in whom they have not believed? And **how are they to believe in one of whom they have never heard?** And how are they to hear without someone to proclaim him? Romans 10:13-14 NRSV  
Jesus taught, proclaimed, and healed (demonstrated the power of) the gospel (Matthew 4:23)
- We are to let the eternal life of God in us shine and draw all to Christ. This requires living a spiritual life that is completely dependent on the Holy Spirit. We should endeavor to preach and teach and let people’s faith depend on the power of God.