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Covenant of Salt

Intro_

Christians have a covenant with the Lord, much like a contract. When two individuals enter into a contract, they both agree to certain terms, and if one doesn't hold up his end of the contract, there will be repercussions. This analogy can be applied to the Church's covenant with the Lord. This evening, I want to focus on a specific description and characterization of this covenant entitled "the covenant of salt". We're going to look into why the scripture refers to it as such and the significance to the Christian.

The Meal-Offering

Let's read about the usage of salt in the worship service. **Lev. 2:13** "And every oblation of thy meat offering shalt thou season with salt; neither shalt thou suffer the salt of the covenant of thy God to be lacking from thy meat offering: with all thine offerings thou shalt offer salt". Why was salt used? Well, salt has a couple of traditional uses. Obviously, we all know of using it to season our food; it adds flavor. Salt is also used to preserve. Salted meat outlast that which is unsalted. This is one of the oldest forms of food preservation in the world. The salt is a symbol of the Lord's covenant with his people, it is everlasting, and he uses it to preserve his nation throughout eternity; but how? **2 Chronicles 13:1-10**: "Now in the eighteenth year of king Jeroboam began Abijah to reign over Judah. He reigned three years in Jerusalem. His mother's name also was Michaiiah the daughter of Uriel of Gibeah. And there was war between Abijah and Jeroboam. And Abijah set the battle in array with an army of valiant men of war, even four hundred thousand chosen men: Jeroboam also set the battle in array against him with eight hundred thousand chosen men, being mighty men of valour. And Abijah stood up upon mount Zemaraim, which is in mount Ephraim, and said, Hear me, thou Jeroboam, and all Israel; Ought ye not to know that the LORD God of Israel gave the kingdom over Israel to David for ever, even to him and to his sons by a covenant of salt? Yet Jeroboam the son of Nebat, the servant of Solomon the son of David, is risen up, and hath rebelled against his lord. And there are gathered unto him vain men, the children of Belial, and have strengthened themselves against Rehoboam the son of Solomon, when Rehoboam was young and tenderhearted, and could not withstand them. And now ye think to withstand the kingdom of the LORD in the hand of the sons of David; and ye be a great multitude, and there are with you golden calves, which Jeroboam made you for gods. Have ye not cast out the priests of the LORD, the sons of Aaron, and the Levites, and have made you priests after the manner of the nations of other lands? so that whosoever cometh to consecrate himself with a young bullock and seven rams, the same may be a priest of them that are no gods. But as for us, the LORD is our God, and we have not forsaken him; and the priests, which minister unto the LORD, are the sons of Aaron, and the Levites wait upon their business". Through the preservation of the priesthood and the sanctuary, Israel would continue being the Lord's chosen people.

Salt of the Earth

We are all familiar with the informal expression "the salt of the earth". It is used to signify the, down to earth, common, working class people. But Christ uses this description in a different way, he uses it to signify his true followers. **Matt 5:13-16** "Ye are the salt of the earth: but if the salt have lost his savour, wherewith shall it be salted? it is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men. Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid. Neither do men light a candle,

and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house.” Let’s also look at **Luke 14: 34-35** “Salt is good: but if the salt have lost his savour, wherewith shall it be seasoned? 35: It is neither fit for the land, nor yet for the dunghill; but men cast it out. He that hath ears to hear, let him hear.”

What is Christ speaking of? What does the salt represent? The salt represents the Word of God! In the same way that salt was used in the Old Testament to make savory and to preserve, this “spiritual salt” does so to the Christian. It is through the Word of the Lord that his people have been preserved even from the beginning to now. Besides having the gospel truth, we as the remnant of the Lord must continue to have *zeal, respect* and *reverence* toward his Word, as opposed to the rest of the world. While the rest of the World has religious practices, they do not have the conviction required to forsake all things and the present way of life for the truth’s sake! That is what makes the salt within the Christian so special. The peculiar, yet fervent zeal every Christian must have is hatred toward idolatry! An excellent example of this is found in a short narrative in 2 Kings 10: 16-27: “And he said, Come with me, and see my zeal for the LORD. So they made him ride in his chariot. And when he came to Samaria, he slew all that remained unto Ahab in Samaria, till he had destroyed him, according to the saying of the LORD, which he spake to Elijah. And Jehu gathered all the people together, and said unto them, Ahab served Baal a little; but Jehu shall serve him much. Now therefore call unto me all the prophets of Baal, all his servants, and all his priests; let none be wanting: for I have a great sacrifice to do to Baal; whosoever shall be wanting, he shall not live. But Jehu did it in subtilty, to the intent that he might destroy the worshippers of Baal. And Jehu said, Proclaim a solemn assembly for Baal. And they proclaimed it. And Jehu sent through all Israel: and all the worshippers of Baal came, so that there was not a man left that came not. And they came into the house of Baal; and the house of Baal was full from one end to another. And he said unto him that was over the vestry, Bring forth vestments for all the worshippers of Baal. And he brought them forth vestments. And Jehu went, and Jehonadab the son of Rechab, into the house of Baal, and said unto the worshippers of Baal, Search, and look that there be here with you none of the servants of the LORD, but the worshippers of Baal only. And when they went in to offer sacrifices and burnt offerings, Jehu appointed fourscore men without, and said, If any of the men whom I have brought into your hands escape, he that letteth him go, his life shall be for the life of him. And it came to pass, as soon as he had made an end of offering the burnt offering, that Jehu said to the guard and to the captains, Go in, and slay them; let none come forth. And they smote them with the edge of the sword; and the guard and the captains cast them out, and went to the city of the house of Baal. And they brought forth the images out of the house of Baal, and burned them. And they brake down the image of Baal, and brake down the house of Baal, and made it a draught house unto this day”. Our Master spoke of a danger of the salt losing its savor; of the believer losing all zeal for the One True God! How does this happen?

Saltless Salt

Where did the church lose its jealousy for the truth and how could this happen to a people so conservative in nature? The church has for centuries remained indifferent over the subject of the roles of each gender in the church and especially over the artificial head covering for woman. Many individuals with personal faith practice the precept; however, they do not have the courage to denounce the church’s apathy toward its practice nor to cut off fellowship with it and to publicly accuse it of transgression. It is the salt within the Christian that compels him to act against such idolatry to eradicate it from the house of the Lord. However, there was one individual that was willing to continue in the Word with determined zeal and jealousy for the ordinance; as it is written,

“I have not hid thy righteousness within my heart; I have declared thy faithfulness and thy salvation: I have not concealed thy lovingkindness and thy truth from the great congregation.” **Psalms 40:10**

As for the preachers of the Church, the demonstration of superior faith by another only served to underline their indifference toward the Law. **Psalms 119:139** records, “My zeal hath consumed me, because mine enemies have forgotten thy words.”

Christ tells us salt is good, but what use is a salt with no flavor? What good is religious conservatism without zeal? Preachers have taken the Word of the Spirit (something so good, something so pure and holy) and turned it into something completely inactive and vain! Saltless salt, Christianity without zeal, is no longer good for anything, according to Jesus, not even the dunghill.

Season your Speech

Col 4:6 “Let your speech be always with grace, seasoned with salt, that ye may know how ye ought to answer every man.” Our preaching should always be seasoned with salt; that is, we should speak with conviction and faith based on doctrine and not on our own opinion. Making use of the *prophetic word* is an excellent method to season the Testimony of Jesus Christ. This is how we are able to answer any man about what we teach here in the as members of the House of the Elect. There are many churches for people to choose from. But for the most part, their religion is indifferent to the demands of the doctrine of Christ. If you are looking for the true, seasoned Word of God, the authentic priesthood and sanctuary of God’s abode; it can only be found here where the gospel truth is truly respected and honored, as it is written, **Psa 26:8** “LORD, I have loved the habitation of thy house, and the place where thine honour dwelleth.”

Conclusion_

We have a *Covenant of Salt* with the Lord, and as long as we continue in his truth he will continue to preserve us with his salt. **Psa. 37:28** “For the LORD loveth judgment, and forsaketh not his saints; they are preserved for ever: but the seed of the wicked shall be cut off” Which of these two descriptions would you like to apply to you? If you choose preservation, you may begin today by confessing and being baptized for the remission of your sins.