

# ***Christian Influence***

***How Christians are Called to  
Influence the World with Works and  
Words for the Glory of God***

**Title: Christian Influence**

**Date: March 9, 2025**

**Texts: Matthew 5:13-16 and**

**Psalms 145**

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**Christian influence:** the calling to represent God by word and work in all of life so that people might be transformed by what they see and hear about Him.

## **Christian Compartmentalization of God**

### **The Christian's Influence:**

1. \_\_\_\_\_ in such a way where you further and preserve what is good, and your works bring attention to the glory of God.

First illustration: \_\_\_\_\_ (v.13).

**Matthew 5:13** You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt has become tasteless, how will it be made salty *again*? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out to be trampled under foot by men.

“but if the salt becomes tasteless” – corrupted. “it is no longer good” – no longer holds the power or ability

**Point:** the believer's \_\_\_\_\_ should be a force of preservation according to the will of God in the world, not an agent of corruption.

Second illustration: \_\_\_\_\_ (v.14-16).

**Matthew 5:14 You are the light of the world.**

“light” – the illuminating and clarifying representation of God in moral purity and truth.

**Three Grounding Truths:**

**A. Jesus is the \_\_\_\_\_ light.**

Jesus was the light of the world (John 9:5). Jesus is the great promised light (Matt. 4:16).

**B. Believers are light \_\_\_\_\_ of Jesus.**

**Ephesians 5:8 for you were formerly darkness, but now you are light in the Lord**

**C. Light includes both truth and moral excellence that \_\_\_\_\_ God.**

**Ephesians 5:8–9 for you were formerly darkness, but now you are light in the Lord; walk as children of light (for the fruit of that light consists in all goodness and righteousness and truth),**

**Philippians 2:15 so that you will be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world,**

“world” – a place of immense spiritual darkness, where men believe lies and live in sin.

### Two Pictures:

**Matthew 5:14–15** You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden; nor does *anyone* light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house.

### Imperative:

**Matthew 5:16** Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven.

“shine” – emit, give forth (imperative).

“see” – observable, visible.

“your good works” – intrinsically valuable (ex. Matt. 5:3-13).

“glorify” – ascribe worth to, give praise to, acknowledge with honor, think of in exalting terms.

**Point:** we are lights preceding from the great Light, commanded to shine the light of God by doing good works before a dark world to make the power and glory of God

2. \_\_\_\_\_ of God so that the glory of God might be heard and known.

**Psalm 145:10** All Your works, O Yahweh, shall give thanks to You, and Your holy ones shall bless You.

“holy ones” – faithful, loyal, godly.

How should we speak of God as God’s people?

**Psalm 145:11–12 They shall speak of the glory of Your kingdom and talk of Your might; to make known to the sons of men His mighty deeds and the glory of the majesty of His kingdom.**

“To make known” – help understand, bring notice to, cause recognition.

**N.T. connection:**

**1 Peter 2:9 But you are a chosen family, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for *God’s* own possession, so that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light**

“proclaim” – to tell out, make known by words expressed outwardly.

**Psalm 145:4 One generation shall laud Your works to another, and shall declare Your mighty deeds.**

“laud” – to praise highly in a public context.

“declare” – to announce and to inform.

**Psalm 145:7 They shall pour forth the memory of Your abundant goodness and will shout joyfully of Your righteousness.**

“pour forth” – to gush out like a strong spring of water.

“shout joyfully” – to cheerfully announce, to declare in celebration.

“sons of men” – a popular phrase of the Psalms to describe all of mankind, not one specific group of people.

What do we know about God that is worthy and deserving of being spoken of to others?

**A. The \_\_\_\_\_ of God.**

**Psalm 145:8 Yahweh is gracious and compassionate; slow to anger and great in lovingkindness.**

“gracious” – shows favor to the unfavorable and does good to the unworthy.

“compassionate” – concerned with and caring towards those in need or distress to help.

“great in lovingkindness” – the great and rich faithful treatment of God according to His covenantal love.

“slow to anger” – God’s choice to endure offence and refrain from inflicting His fullness of wrath against sin, all in perfect tranquility.

**Psalm 145:9 Yahweh is good to all, and His compassions are over all His works.**

“Yahweh is good to all” – God displays and gives of His goodness to all people.

“His compassions are over all His works” – God’s expressions of care and mercy are before all of His created, animate works.

**B. The \_\_\_\_\_ of God.**

**Psalm 145:11–12 They shall speak of the glory of Your kingdom and talk of Your might; to make known to the sons of men His mighty deeds and the glory of the majesty of His kingdom.**

“talk of Your might” – God unparalleled and unrivaled power to do incredible acts.

“make known... His mighty deeds” – same as v.11 “might” except with an emphasis on past acts of strength by God.

**Psalm 105:1 Oh give thanks to Yahweh, call upon His name; make known His acts among the peoples.**

**C. The \_\_\_\_\_ of God.**

**Psalm 145:11–12 They shall speak of the glory of Your kingdom and talk of Your might; to make known to the sons of men His mighty deeds and the glory of the majesty of His kingdom.**

“kingdom” – royal rulership; a realm that a king reigns over.

“glory of Your kingdom” – the impressive importance, value, and splendor of God’s reign.

“majesty” – the quality of being magnificent, splendid, and impressive.

**Psalm 145:13 Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and Your dominion *endures* from generation to every generation.**

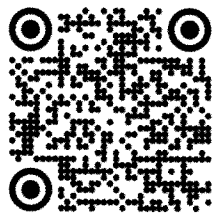
“everlasting” – of all ages, total perpetuity.

**Implications:**

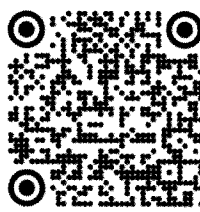
View \_\_\_\_\_ of life as an opportunity and calling to influence people for the glory of God.

## Discussion Questions:

1. What is Christian compartmentalization? Why is it such a prevalent problem? What is the solution?
2. Define what Jesus meant by “salt of the earth” and “light of the world.” Read Matt. 5:3-12. When lived out, how could the beatitudes preserve what is good and/or be a witness of God?
3. Read Psalm 145:3-13. How does this passage define and shape these crucial areas of the Christian life: parenting, discipleship, evangelism, and missions?
4. How does one “shine” their good works before men for God’s glory and avoid the pitfall of trying to be noticed by others and praised (see Matt. 6:1)?
5. Personal reflection: write down 1-3 relationships or areas in your life that your Christian influence needs improvement. Pray this week for opportunities to do that.



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the Staff*



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*Weekly  
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**Blanks: Live, salt, life, great, because, represent, visible,  
Speak, character, acts, kingdom, All.**