

# *The Pastor's Bible Study*

An interactive study of the Gospel of Matthew<sup>1</sup>

## Week 8 ~ Exploring Chapter 5:13-48

### Personal Study Time:

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(Use the following suggestions in your personal Bible study time this week to prepare for our class discussion next Saturday.)

- Start a new section in your Matthew notebook and label it 5:13-48
- Read Matthew 5:13-48 twice and then answer the following questions in your notebook.
  - Verses 13-16 refer to Christians as the salt of the earth and the light of the world. In what ways is that true?
  - How can salt lose its saltiness?
  - Compare 5:14 with John 8:12 and 9:5. How is it that both Christ and Christians can be called the light of the world?
  - How have you been salt and light to the world in the past few days?
  - In what ways might you have been even more so?
  - What can you do in the next few days to increase your saltiness and light to the world?
- Re-read Matthew 5:17-48 and answer the following questions in your notebook.
  - What does 5:17 mean by “the Law or the Prophets”? You may want to compare that verse with Luke 24:44 as you think about your answer.
  - How did Jesus “fulfill” the law and the prophets?
  - Look up “law” in a Bible dictionary, and outline its many New Testament uses.
  - List the evidences you find in 5:17-48 that Jesus did not abolish the Ten Commandment law.
  - Are you living your life in such a way that you are “annulling” one of these commandments? If so, how?
  - How can you allow Jesus to “fulfill” the law and the prophets in your life?

*See the backside of this page for a continuation of this week's study.*

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<sup>1</sup> Taken from George R. Knight, *Matthew: The Gospel of the Kingdom*, The Abundant Life Bible Amplifier (Boise, Idaho: Pacific Press Pub. Association, 1994).

- Re-read Matthew 5:20-48 and answer the following question in your notebook.
  - Because righteousness has several meanings in the New Testament use a Bible concordance to look up every mention of “righteousness” in Matthew. Now write out your thoughts on what you believe Matthew means by righteousness in 5:20.
  - Examine 5:20-48 and list what you discover to be wrong with the righteousness of the Pharisees.
  - List the ways that a Christian’s righteousness must surpass that of the Pharisees and teachers of the law (Scribes).
  - Is Matthew teaching some kind of righteousness by works in this passage? If not, what part does grace have in 5:21-48?
  - Reflect on your thoughts and attitudes of the past few days, have I kept the law in its most spiritual sense?
  - Have you felt hatred or lust or some other spiritual problem? If so, when?
  - Have you experienced victory over these spiritual problems? Is so, when?
  - How did you achieve that victory?
  - What can you do to ensure future victories
  
- Re-read Matthew 5:48 and answer the following questions in your notebook.
  - Matthew 5:48 is one of the most debated passages in the Sermon on the Mount. In a paragraph or two, discuss what Jesus means by the command “be perfect, even as your heavenly Father is perfect.”
  - Now re-read this passage in its immediate context, 5:43-48 and then read its parallel passage found in Luke 6:32-36.
    - List the ways in which the immediate context in 5:43-48 sheds light on God’s actions that Christians are called to emulate.
    - How does Luke’s parallel passage also help you understand this command?
    - What light, if any, does Christ’s definition of the greatest commandment in the law (Matt. 22:37-40) shed on the possible meaning of 5:48?
  - How “perfect” are you emulating the love of Jesus in your relationship with your friendly and not-so-friendly neighbors?
  - In what ways could you improve today through God’s grace?