

Philippians 2:14–16 (NLT)

- 7) Paul says we “shine like bright lights.” What does that look like in everyday life?

2 Corinthians 4:6–7 (NLT)

- 8) Why do you think God chose to put His light into fragile “jars of clay” like us?

Romans 12:1–2 (NLT)

- 9) What daily choices help us avoid “conforming” and instead live transformed?

Ephesians 2:8–10 (NLT)

- 10) How does being “created for good works” connect to being salt and light?

CHAIR TIME TOOLS

Reflection questions for Chair Time: think about the following questions and pray through them with Jesus.

- 1) Where do I see God’s light exposing something in me that needs to change?
- 2) Who in my life right now needs to experience the flavor of God’s love through my words?
- 3) What’s one step I can take this week to shine like a bright light in my family, workplace, or friendships?

The Simple Gospel

How do we live it?

Pastor Craig Sweeney | October 05, 2025

*“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.” **John 3:16-17 ESV***

*“God blesses you when people mock you and persecute you and lie about you and say all sorts of evil things against you because you are my followers. Be happy about it! Be very glad! For a great reward awaits you in heaven. And remember, the ancient prophets were persecuted in the same way. **Matthew 5:11-12 NLT***

Thread: Do you know what God is preparing you to be?

“You are the salt of the earth. But what good is salt if it has lost its flavor? Can you make it salty again? It will be thrown out and trampled underfoot as worthless. You are the light of the world—like a city on a hilltop that cannot be hidden. No one lights a lamp and then puts it under a basket. Instead, a lamp is placed on a stand, where it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your good deeds shine out for all to see, so that everyone will praise your heavenly Father.”

Matthew 5:13-20 NLT

3 Myths keeping you from being who God is preparing you to be

Myth 1: People do not want to talk about their faith or hear about your faith.

Myth 2: Christianity is a sinking ship and a dying religion.

Myth 3: Following Jesus doesn’t make any difference in people’s lives.

Reading the Bible is a key indicator of people’s seriousness about their faith. What is the effect of reading the Bible four or more times weekly?

“Salt of the earth”

- You are meant to be experienced by others.
- Enhances the flavor already present.
- YOU are meant to draw out the potential God has placed within others.

Galatians 5:22-23

“...if it has lost its flavor”

- Jesus is literally saying that’s unnatural.
- Salt draws out the flavor of foods.

What do you need to do or think about differently so you can be “salt” for others’ sake?

“You are the light of the world—like a city on a hilltop that cannot be hidden. No one lights a lamp and then puts it under a basket. Instead, a lamp is placed on a stand, where it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your good deeds shine out for all to see, so that everyone will praise your heavenly Father.” **Matthew 5:14-16 NLT**

“You are the light of the world”

- Your life is the invitation to the world around you.
- You and I are to live our lives in a way that begs the question; “Can I live that life too?”

Light is:

- Safety
- Comfort
- Direction
- Refuge
- A place to stay

What do you need to do or think about differently so you can be “light” for others’ sake?

Challenges:

- Do you know what God is prepared to do for you? He wants to bless you.
- Who are you “salt” and “light” to?
- What do you need to do or think about differently so you can be “salt” for others’ sake?
- What do you need to do or think about differently so you can be “light” for others’ sake?

Homework Simple Gospel

Fall 2025 | Week 4

Message Date 10/5/2025

MY STORY

- 1) Who in your life first showed you what it looked like to genuinely follow Jesus, and how did that influence you?
- 2) If you could glow in the dark, what practical (or hilarious) way would you use that ability?

QUICK REVIEW

- 3) What caught your attention from Sunday’s message?

DIGGING DEEPER / TAKING IT HOME

John 8:12 (NLT)

- 4) In what ways does following Jesus change the way we see and walk through the world?

1 Peter 2:9–10 (NLT)

- 5) What do these verses say about our identity and our purpose, and how are these connected to the Beatitudes?

Colossians 4:5–6 (NLT)

- 6) How does “seasoning our words with salt” look in conversations today?