

Sermon Notes – January 31, 2016
“Pew Potato or Salt Shaker?”
Matthew 5:13-16
Rev. Rick Vogeley

Has the church put the world on a "salt-free diet"?

Are we giving the world a "religion" instead of Christ?

Has the church eliminated the buzz but kept the buzzwords?

Have we kept the look and feel of the real thing but gotten rid of the substance and power?

Part of our initial difficulty comes from the present-day use of salt: we think of salt simply as a flavoring, a spice now receiving bad press for its role in causing high blood pressure.

Not so in Jesus' day. In his world, salt was a precious commodity that served a variety of crucial purposes. Sometimes used as wages; salt was best known as a preservative. Before refrigeration, salted foods were the lifeline to survival. Salt was also used as a disinfectant ("salt in the wounds"). Salt's ability to act as a preservative – giving long-life to all it permeated – led the Old Testament prophets to use salt as a symbol of the eternal covenant God made with the Hebrew people (see Leviticus 2:13, Numbers 18:19, 2 Chronicles 13:5) – naming it the "covenant of salt."

- Remember we're not in this to test the waters; we are in this to make waves.