

WESTERN WISDOM BIBLE STUDY

THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD

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 your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.

—*Matthew 5:13-16*

The Great Teacher, in speaking to His Disciples, enunciates to all the people of the world who are ready to respond to the Christ Ray, the gems of Truth and wisdom which light the Way to the spiritual heights. In His utterances are to be found the keys to the process of spiritual alchemy which transmutes the personality into the eternal part of the human being.

Salt may be said to symbolize the Truth, which acts as a dynamic leaven in the nature of man, accomplishing his evolution out of matter into spirit. Those who follow His ways attract into their inmost being the divine leaven which not only acts as the transforming agent within the individual, but also radiates out into his surroundings and gives an impetus, be it ever so small, to others to rise out of the hampering toils of materiality.

But if the aspirant ceases to strive, there is no real essence left in the "salt" — it no longer contains its "savour." Truth can affect us only as we permit it to enter into our hearts and minds. The true aspirant ever strives to listen to the inner voice, which always

urges him to direct his life according to God's laws.

The process of transmutation (purity and self-forgetting service) brings into being the soul body, that garment of light which shines with a pervasive luster that brightens the darkest corners of man's habitations. Its presence is always felt, even though unseen by most people. It is truly a "city . . . set on a hill" which "cannot be hid," and by the combined power of the soul bodies of humanity in general will the final Liberation of the Christ be effected.

The true aspirant — he who steadily fashions his soul body — is always ready to share his understanding — his light — with his fellowmen. His service is given willingly and gladly, with no thought of gain for himself. His aspiration is only to help those who are in need, however and wherever he can, and thus to glorify God.

"As a child that is born into the world requires nourishment, so also the Christ that is born *within* is a babe and requires to be nourished to the full stature of manhood. And as the physical body grows by a continual assimilation of material from the chemical region, the solids, liquids, and gases, so also, as the Christ grows, will the two higher ethers grow in volume and form a luminous cloud around the man or woman sufficiently discerning to set his or her face heavenward; it will invest the pilgrim with light so brilliant that he '*walks in the light*' as a matter of fact."

This is the "Light of the World," the Christ made manifest in men.