1. **Read Matthews 5:13-16.**
2. Besides flavoring, what was the use of salt in the ancient world Jesus is referring to?

(verse 13)

1. In what way are Christians to function as salt in an antagonistic culture?
2. How do you reconcile Jesus’ command to be a preservative in a world that is destined to be destroyed?
3. What is the chief purpose of light? (verse 15)
4. What does Jesus suggest needs illuminating in our world? (verse 16)
5. How would you compare 1 Thessalonians 1:3 with Jesus’ command to be light in the world?
6. What are the main “works of faith” and “labors of love” that are available to you which would illuminate Christ in your part of the world?
7. How effective are you at being salt and light? How effective would you say the Thessalonians were?
8. **Read James 2:14-26.**
9. What is the central thesis of this section? (verse 14)
10. How should your deeds differ between a person who has legitimate needs and one whose needs result from a wanton or profligate lifestyle? (verses 15-16)
11. What do works prove about faith? (verse 17)
12. What is the meaning of verse 24, theologically speaking?
13. In light of verse 26, would you say the Thessalonians’ faith was alive or dead?

(1 Thessalonians 1:3)

1. **Read II Corinthians 6:3-10.**
2. Why was Paul a qualified spokesman for living “energetically” for Christ?
3. What are the major hindrances to Christians following Paul’s example today? (Read through the list again in light of the average American family with several children, two jobs, etc.)
4. Paul obviously deprived himself of a great deal. How do you personally find the balance between living energetically for Christ versus living energetically for yourself?
5. Identify all the things in these verses which every Christian could do (e.g., verse 6):
6. If someone who knew you well before you were a Christian met you now, how energetic would they say you are as a Christian?
7. The Thessalonians turned from idols to serve the true God. What distinct changes in your life indicate an authentic conversion?
8. When is it wise to imitate other Christians? (I Corinthians 11:1)
9. How will you know whether a Christian leader is following Christ or not?
10. Under what conditions would you urge a fellow believer to imitate you? (I Corinthians 4:16)
11. In what practical ways was Paul a model to the Thessalonian church? (II Thessalonians 3:7-10)
12. **Read Acts 5:41; 8:8; 13:52; 15:3.**
13. In how many instances was the church’s joy related to the advancement of the Gospel?
14. How often is that the cause of joy in the modern church?