

MARK IX. 49, 50.

“For every one shall be salted with fire, and every sacrifice shall be salted with salt. Salt is good ; but if the salt have lost its saltness, wherewith will ye season it ? Have salt in yourselves, and have peace one with another.”

The Lord here lets us know that all should be tested by the perfect holiness of God, and that in judgment by one means or another. Every one should be salted with fire—the good and the bad. Where there was life, the fire would only consume the flesh ; for when we are judged, we are chastened of the Lord, that we should not be condemned with the world. If the judgment reaches the wicked (and assuredly it shall reach them), it is condemnation—a fire that is not quenched. But, for the good, there was also something else : they should be salted with salt. Those who were consecrated to God, whose life was an offering to Him, should not lack the power of holy grace, which binds the soul to God and inwardly preserves it from evil. Salt is not the gentleness that pleases (which grace produces without doubt), but that energy of God within us which connects everything in us with God, and dedicates the heart to Him, binding it to Him in the sense of obligation and of desire, rejecting all in oneself that is contrary to Him (obligation that flows from grace, but which acts all the more powerfully on that account). Thus, practically, it was