Oak Grove M.B. Church 7289 U.S. Highway 64 Memphis, TN 38133 Donald Johnson, Sr. Pastor

901-388-2752 October 12, 2018 **Grizzly Basketball** JoeDae Jenkins, Assistant Pastor

## NBA Players and Coaches as Salt and Light To The World

Scripture:

13 "Let me tell you why you are here. You're here to be saltseasoning that brings out the God-flavors of this earth. If you lose your saltiness, how will people taste godliness? You've lost your usefulness and will end up in the garbage. <sup>14-16</sup> "Here's another way to put it: You're here to be light, bringing out the God-colors in the world. God is not a secret to be kept. We're going public with this, as public as a city on a hill. If I make you light-bearers, you don't think I'm going to hide you under a bucket, do you? I'm putting you on a light stand. Now that I've put you there on a hilltop, on a light stand—shine! Keep open house; be generous with your lives. By opening up to others, you'll prompt people to open up with God, this generous Father in heaven. Matthew 5:13-16 (The Message).

Think About This: This scripture is a statement of how Jesus wants you to impact the people of the world.

Talk About This:

We are blessed in various ways to be either salt or light to the world. Food is bland and tasteless without salt. A room is dark without light. We add salt or light as it is necessary to add a more heighten experience to our dining event or our darkened moments.

As NBA players, you have a unique opportunity to influence other men and women simply by how you live your life, how you play the game, and the manner in which you deal with victory and defeat. Do you walk humbly, but with strength? Do you accept that you are blessed among men and not wear it as a crown of pride? Are you able to converse both with dignitaries and those in the ghetto?

On the Court, you are impactful if your play either contributes to obtaining a score or prevents the opponent from scoring. As a Christian, we score when people want to know the Christ that we show or we prevent the Devil from leading someone to destruction.

Meditate On This: "...Always be ready to give an answer to anyone who asks you about the hope you have. Be ready to give the reason for it. But do it gently and with respect." 1 Peter 3:15 (NIRV).