

## THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD

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John 8:12-30

1. In some manuscripts John 7:52 is immediately followed by John 8:12.
2. In John 7:45-52 we see that Jesus' teaching was causing conflict among the Jewish officials.
  - a. The temple officers who were sent to arrest Jesus returned without Him, and when questioned as to why they did not bring Him replied, "Never has a man spoken the way this man speaks."
  - b. The Pharisees responded, "You have not also been led astray, have you?"
  - c. They went on to point out that none of them had come to believe in Him.
  - d. Additionally they stated that those who did believe in Him were accursed because they did not know the Law.
  - e. Nicodemus, who had previously sought out Jesus, suggested that the rest of the Pharisees were prejudging Him, which brought a sharp, and erroneous rebuke.
3. Previously Jesus had avoided direct confrontation with the scribes and the Pharisees, but here we find Him, in the Temple, in the Court of the Women, openly teaching and challenging them.
4. In this passage we have one of Jesus' seven, "I Am," statements.
  - a. "I am the bread of life." John 6:48
  - b. "I am the Light of the world." John 8:12
  - c. "I am the door." John 10:9
  - d. "I am the good shepherd." John 10:14
  - e. "I am the resurrection and the life." John 11:25
  - f. "I am the way, and the truth, and the life." John 14:6
  - g. "I am the true vine." John 15:15
5. As we will Jesus' claim to be the light of the world brought a strong reaction from His detractors.
6. Let's see what we can learn that will help us as we navigate through life.

### I. Truth stated.

- A. We live in a world that likes to think that truth is relative, in that truth can be whatever we may happen to believe it is.
- B. We live in a world that that does not like the idea of absolutes, unless those absolutes agree with people's own positions.
- C. Here Jesus made a statement of fact that was clearly stated in John 1:6-14.
- D. He, and He alone is the Light (that which illuminates the darkness of this world).
- E. In his prologue John, the Apostle, wrote about John the Baptist, and declared, "There came a man sent from God, whose name was John. 7 He came as a witness, to testify about the Light, so that all might believe through him. 8 He was not the Light, but he came to testify about the Light. 9 **There was the true Light which, coming into the world, enlightens every man.** 10 He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him. 11 He came to His own, and those who were His own did not receive Him. 12 But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name, 13 who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God. 14 And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we saw His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth."

F. When the Pharisees challenged Jesus' statement He defended it by declaring His oneness with the Father. 14-18

G. He further stated that:

1. What He heard from the Father He spoke in the world. 26
2. His teaching did not originate with Himself. 28
3. All that He did and said was pleasing to the Father. 29

## II. Truth applied.

A. Those who follow Jesus will not walk in darkness, but shall have the Light of life. 12

B. The idea here is that those who follow Jesus will not walk in darkness because He, the Light of the world, will be a present reality in them.

C. Because Jesus, in the person of the Holy Spirit is in us, we are not only indwelt with the Light, but we will emanate, or manifest, the Light.

1. Matthew 5:14-16

"You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden; 15 nor does anyone light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. 16 "Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven."

2. Philippians 2:14-16

Do all things without grumbling or disputing; 15 so that you will prove yourselves to be blameless and innocent, children of God above reproach in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you appear as lights in the world, 16 holding fast (forth) the word of life, so that in the day of Christ I will have reason to glory because I did not run in vain nor toil in vain.

D. John stated this truth this way in 1 John 1:5-7.

This is the message we have heard from Him and announce to you, that God is Light, and in Him there is no darkness at all. 6 If we say that we have fellowship with Him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth; 7 but if we walk in the Light as He Himself is in the Light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin.

## III. Truth denied.

A. The Pharisees declared, "You are testifying about Yourself; Your testimony is not true." 8:13

B. Jesus clearly defined man's problem in John 3:16-21.

"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life. 17 "For God did not send the Son into the world to judge the world, but that the world might be saved through Him. 18 "He who believes in Him is not judged; he who does not believe has been judged already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. 19 **"This is the judgment, that the Light has come into the world, and men loved the darkness rather than the Light, for their deeds were evil. 20 "For everyone who does evil hates the Light, and does not come to the Light for fear that his deeds will be exposed. 21 "But he who practices the truth comes to the Light, so that his deeds may be manifested as having been wrought in God."**

C. Paul declared, "For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, 19 because that which is known about God is evident within them; for God made it evident to them." Romans 1:18-19

D. Those who reject the Light:

1. Can only judge within the limits of the flesh. 15
2. Cannot and do not know God. 19
3. Will die in their sins. 21, 24
4. Have no hope of Heaven. 21

**APPLICATION**

1. In verse 28 Jesus made a statement that is similar to the one He made to Nicodemus in John 3:14-15.

"As Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up; 15 so that whoever believes will in Him have eternal life."

2. I believe that both of these statements refer to those who would come to believe the Gospel when it was proclaimed by the early church.
3. Man's attempt to silence and put out the Light by crucifying Jesus actually served to fulfill God's redemptive plan.
4. Those who are saved are saved because they have come to the Light.
5. Those who have come to the Light will walk in the Light.
6. Those who walk in the Light will manifest the Light.