

The Gospel of John

I AM the Light of the World

John 8:12-20

INTRODUCTION:

This morning we are continuing with the Gospel of John series. I preached from this same passage in February 2017. It was tempting to preach the same message, but I decided to look at it from a slightly different perspective this morning. Back then the message was almost entirely based upon verse 12 where Jesus said "**I am the Light of the World**".

This is the second of seven "I AM" statements that Jesus made in the Gospel of John. This morning I would like to go through the passage verse by verse and look at it from the angle that John told us was his purpose for writing the Gospel. That was "**that you may BELIEVE that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that BELIEVING you may have life in His name**".

When Jesus states "I AM the Light of the World", He is saying something very profound about Himself. He is saying "**I AM GOD!**"

All Stand and Read Scripture

John 8:12-20 (NASB)

12 Then Jesus again spoke to them, saying, "I am the Light of the world; he who follows Me will not walk in the darkness, but will have the Light of life." 13 So the Pharisees said to Him, "You are testifying about Yourself; Your testimony is not true." 14 Jesus answered and said to them, "Even if I testify about Myself, My testimony is true, for I know where I came from and where I am going; but you do not know where I come from or where I am going. 15 You judge according to the flesh; I am not judging anyone. 16 But even if I do judge, My judgment is true; for I am not alone in it, but I and the Father who sent Me. 17 Even in your law it has been written that the testimony of two men is true. 18 I am He who testifies about Myself, and the Father who sent Me testifies about Me." 19 So they were saying to Him, "Where is Your Father?" Jesus answered, "You know neither Me nor My Father; if you knew Me, you would know My Father also." 20 These words He spoke in the treasury, as He taught in the temple; and no one seized Him, because His hour had not yet come.

As we prepare to continue this journey, let's bow in a word of prayer.

Prayer

BODY:

I. I AM THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD.

John 8:12 (NASB)

¹² Then Jesus again spoke to them, saying, "**I am the Light of the world**; he who follows Me will not walk in the **darkness**, but will have the Light of **life**."

In this verse I want you to notice three words:

- Light
- Darkness
- Life

Let's **briefly** look at each of these words and try to determine from scripture what each of them symbolize spiritually.

A. LIGHT.

"I am the Light of the world."

The first thing you must understand is that Jesus is speaking symbolically. He claims to be **the** Light of the world. God Himself also claims to be Light.

1 John 1:5 (NASB)

⁵ 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.

They are not claiming to be **a** physical light or even **a** spiritual light. Jesus is saying They are **THE light**.. "**Light**" is a metaphor for righteousness and goodness.

Light and **love** are both part of God's essence. The message is that God is completely holy and righteous. He has no sin and is a God of mercy and justice.

B. DARKNESS.

This "**Light**" must also be understood in another way. Since Jesus is God and God is light and there is no darkness in Him, we must know **how** we can receive this light.

When Jesus made the claim that He is the Light of the World, He also made a challenge. Jesus said it would not do us any good that I am the light of the world if you do not do something.

"He who follows Me will not walk in the darkness".

Light is a natural contrast with darkness. So if "**LIGHT**" is a metaphor for **righteousness and goodness** then "**DARKNESS**" signifies **evil and sin**.

Jesus came to teach us the truth concerning His righteousness and how we can have our broken relationship with God restored. It is through His teachings that we can understand His righteousness (His light) and how we can avoid the darkness and walk in His light. Jesus says, if you want to benefit from this then you will have to **follow me**. Do you know what it means to "**follow**" Christ?

John 12:21 (NASB)

²¹ But **he who practices the truth** comes to the Light, so that his deeds may be manifested as having been wrought in God.”

The scriptures reveal that to be a "follower" of Christ you MUST be someone "**who practices the truth**". Just believing that Jesus is the Messiah and the Son of God in itself is not enough.

James tells us...

James 2:19-20 (NASB)

¹⁹ You believe that God is one. You do well; the demons also believe, and shudder. ²⁰ But are you willing to recognize, you foolish fellow, that faith without works is useless?

If we are a "follower" of Christ, then we **believe** in Him, we **love** Him above everything else, and we **follow** His teachings.

Matthew 16:24 (NASB)

²⁴ Then Jesus said to His disciples, “If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross and follow Me.

Just as Christ is the Light, if we are a follower of Christ, we are to reflect His light to the world around us. The moon does not generate light but reflects the light from the **SUN** to serve as light to the darkness, so too are we to reflect the light of God's **SON** to the world around us.

The more that we mirror His image, the brighter that light is. Not that we produce it on our own, but that we reflect Him. This gives glory to God. When we become more like Him, through the work of the Holy Spirit within us, we reflect more and more of His light!

C. LIFE.

"He who follows Me...will have the Light of life."

What is the "**Light of Life**".

1 John 1:6-7 (NASB)

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.

If we are walking in the light and avoiding the darkness, it means that we have had our sins wiped away by the blood of Jesus on the cross. Thus we are "Alive", meaning that we are found righteous (free of sin) by God. Just as Jesus is eternal and without sin, we also are without sin and are assured that we will be with God in Heaven for eternity.

Jesus stated this to the Pharisees.

John 8:51-53 (NASB)

⁵¹ Truly, truly, I say to you, if anyone keeps My word he will never see death.” ⁵² The Jews said to Him, “Now we know that You have a demon. Abraham died, and the prophets *also*; and You say, ‘If anyone keeps My word, he will never taste of death.’ ⁵³ Surely You are not greater than our father Abraham, who died? The prophets died too; whom do You make Yourself out *to be*?”

You see, as long as we live in darkness, we are spiritually dead. It is only when we keep God's word by following Him that we can walk in the light. When we are in the light we are alive in Christ. We will not experience the second death of eternal separation from God.

II. YOUR TESTIMONY IS NOT TRUE.

John 8:13 (NASB)

¹³ So the Pharisees said to Him, “You are testifying about Yourself; **Your testimony is not true.**”

These Pharisees have no idea who they are speaking to. Just the fact that Jesus was God in the flesh, makes His witness automatically true. But the Pharisees refused to believe that Jesus was the Messiah.

So they tried to use scripture to refute Christ's claim. The Bible says by two witnesses, a thing shall be established.

In **verses 14-18**, we see three reasons why Jesus' witness was true:

John 8:14-15 (NASB)

¹⁴ Jesus answered and said to them, “Even if I testify about Myself, My testimony is true, for I know where I came from and where I am going; but you do not know where I come from or where I am going. ¹⁵ You judge according to the flesh; I am not judging anyone.

(1) Jesus knew His origin and destiny while the Jews were ignorant even of basic spiritual truths. They made their judgments according to the flesh. They thought that Joseph was the father of Jesus.

John 8:16 (NASB)

¹⁶ But even if I do judge, My judgment is true; for I am not alone *in it*, but I and the Father who sent Me.

(2) The intimate union of the Son with the Father guaranteed the truth of the Son's witness.

John 8:17-18 (NASB)

¹⁷ Even in your law it has been written that the testimony of two men is true. ¹⁸ I am He who testifies about Myself, and the Father who sent Me testifies about Me.”

(3) The Pharisees tried to use scripture to refute Christ's claim. The Bible says by two witnesses, a thing shall be established. The Father and son witnessed harmoniously together regarding the identity of the Son.

Jesus was certainly speaking truth here, because God verbally testified on two separate occasions during Jesus' stay on earth. This was at Jesus' baptism and at His transfiguration. Both times a voice came from heaven and said “**This is my beloved Son in Whom I am well pleased**”. You see, this leaves no doubt.

Even the miracles that Jesus performed were witness enough. No man who ever lived had accomplished miracles like Jesus.

He even had the witness of John the Baptist.

John 1:7 (NASB)

⁷ He came as a witness, to testify about the Light, so that all might believe through him.

Even the Old Testament scriptures were a witness to Him. They are full of Messianic prophecies that He would fulfill.

All of these point to an unmistakable Messiah. "**The Light of the World**"!

III. WHERE IS YOUR FATHER?

John 8:19 (NASB)

¹⁹ So they were saying to Him, "**Where is Your Father?**" Jesus answered, "You know neither Me nor My Father; if you knew Me, you would know My Father also."

The Pharisees believed Joseph to be Jesus' father when, in fact, God was His Father. Jesus tells them, if they had known God or His Word, they would not be disbelieving Him now. In reality Jesus is The Word.

John 8:20 (NASB)

²⁰ These words He spoke in the treasury, as He taught in the temple; and no one seized Him, because His hour had not yet come.

This treasury, probably was the place of public assembly. We see from this and several other places in John's gospel, that Jesus went often to the temple.

The Pharisees, scribes, and high priests did not approve of Jesus, but they could not do anything about it until God decided the time was right. They would have captured Him here and punished Him if they could have; but God was in control, not them.

CONCLUSION:

John 3:16-21 (NASB)

¹⁶ "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.

Spiritual darkness refers to all that is in opposition to the light of God's love in Christ. The good news that Jesus brings to this world is that His light—His life-giving Spirit—floods light and life into the spiritual darkness of the sinner's heart. The One who opened the eyes of the blind can also bring us out of spiritual darkness. No matter how deep the darkness, the light of God's love and truth overcomes every sin that separates us from God.

So why WOULD men love darkness instead of the Light?

John 3:19-20 (NASB)

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.

Men love the shadows. They love the dark secrets. Because they can do things behind closed doors and in dark places where men cannot see their immorality. But there is a God in Heaven that can see all of our iniquities. All things are naked and open under His eyes. You cannot hide anything from God because God is Light. He is a lit candle in an otherwise dark room.

It is one of the reasons that Christ was so despised, because HE IS LIGHT! In Him is no darkness at all.

But Jesus says that if we are to walk in the light, we must **follow** Him.

Luke 8:16 (NASB)

16 “Now no one after lighting a lamp covers it over with a container, or puts it under a bed; but he puts it on a lampstand, so that those who come in may see the light.

I hope that God places within our hearts a burden for our world. People are walking in darkness. They are stumbling around. They are throwing all of their energy in all the wrong places.

We have the light.

You may ask, "How can we convince them that we have the light?"

ILLUSTRATION:

If we were here at night with all of the lights off and all of the windows covered and it was really dark here, and while you were sitting here in darkness, I would say to you, "Don't worry. I have a flashlight".

How would I prove to you that I have a flashlight? I might say that there are two engineers here who are seen this flashlight. I am going to have them stumble their way up here and describe the size of this thing and its potential brightness, and what kind of light bulb it has. They are going to verify and be witnesses to the fact that I do indeed have a fantastic flashlight that can dispel the darkness in this room.

Would I have to do that? You would say, "No! Just turn the thing on!"

You do not have to prove a thing to the world. You just let the light of Christ reflect off of you. Open the Bible, communicate it with people, and tell them that you have "**The Light**" in your hands. Tell them that their life needs to be restored back to God. He can convict the lost, free them from sin, and let them start walking in His light.

God Be With You.