

JESUS IS THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD

John 8:12

Darkness seems to reign. But when everything seems darkest, the Light shines brighter! Jesus is the Light of the World.

1. JESUS IS GOD'S TRUE LIGHT OF THE WORLD

- The Gospel of John refers to Jesus as Light twelve times. John 8:12 is the second great "I AM" statement by Jesus in the Gospel of John – John 6:35. The "I AM" itself is a claim by Jesus to Deity, to being God the Son in human flesh. By claiming to be the Light of the World Jesus is also claiming to be God and linking Himself with the God of the Old Testament – Psalm 27:1; Isaiah 60:1,2,19. Jesus as the visible God is the Shekinah Glory of God, the visible presence of God.
- The feast of Tabernacles included a "festival of light" – with four huge candelabras being lit around the Court of the Women at the Temple. This celebrated the Light of God's presence in the Cloud while Israel was journeying in the wilderness. Jesus is our Light like the Cloud and the Burning Pillar of Fire for Israel in the wilderness - Exodus 40:34-38. Even though the festival in John is over, Jesus is and remains the LIGHT. Jesus guides His people through the wilderness now of this world! Jesus was and is God in human flesh, revealing God and His light. Jesus is God's presence in our world.

2. JESUS IS THE LIGHT FOR A WORLD IN DARKNESS

- Without Jesus everything is darkness. The world was not created this way, but sin brought darkness into our world. Because we have rejected God and His truth, now the whole world lies in darkness under the domain of the devil – Ephesians 6:12; Colossians 1:12-14; I John 5:19.
- Darkness is the realm of sin, ignorance, fear, bondage, misery, and death – Isaiah 8:19-22; 59:9,10. In our sin we naturally prefer darkness to light – John 3:19. The minds of unbelievers are also darkened and warped – Ephesians 4:17-19. For example, much of our modern world has rejected even the light of reason for "relativism" where there is no such thing as absolute truth any more. Truth is considered oppressive and is obstructing "freedom." *"... 'girls are girls and boys are boys'...is no longer seen as an unquestionable biological fact, accepted by all reasonable people. It's regarded as a metanarrative about binary sex: a power grab...to assign biological sex to a newborn is said to be a violent act. 'Words are violence!' 'Silence is violence' as well, if you fail to affirm a victim's claims. To call for evidence or cite science is viewed as a power grab, proof that you're part of the ...powerful, oppressive, sexist, racist, etc. elite...Critical theory now challenges the very concept of reason. We are collectively plunging down the vortex of insanity. We stand amid the ruins of a culture that has defied and denied the Creator God."* – Sharon James, *Tabletalk*, author of *Gender Ideology: What do Christians Need to Know?*
- But the coming of Jesus brings light into a dark world - Isaiah 9:2; 49:6; Luke 1:78,79; John 1:3-5, 9. He is the True Light. Jesus is the light shining into our darkness.

3. JESUS IS THE LIGHT WE MUST FOLLOW

- Without Jesus we will stumble through life and stay in darkness. Jesus as our Light gives His people protection and guidance – Micah 7:7,8.

- Following Jesus now means walking in His light and in His Truth daily. Following Jesus means commitment to Him, trusting Him alone for salvation, and desiring to go His way. We live in His light – 1 Thessalonians 5:5; 1 John 2:8. We must follow where the light leads. We are not permitted to chart out our own course. Christ reveals His light especially through His Word, the Bible. We walk in the light of His Word, which illumines our path now step by step – Psalm 119:105, 130. God’s Word is absolute Truth. God’s Word is our light, our GPS, our guide in how to walk in the light – Ephesians 5:8-11. *“To follow Christ is to commit ourselves wholly and entirely to Him as our only Leader and Saviour, and to submit ourselves to Him in every matter both of doctrine and practice.” – J.C. Ryle.*
- Following Jesus means shining His light now into our dark world. Jesus is God’s Light and we as His followers reflect His light – Matthew 5:14-16. We are to be light and bring light into a dark world. Let our speech and actions shine for Jesus.
- Following Jesus leads to a glorious destination. Someday for Christ-followers there will only be Light forever in Heaven – Revelation 22:5. There will be no darkness at all in the City of Light forever.

Concluding Applications:

- Will you continue to walk in darkness or will you follow Jesus?
- Are you seeking to follow Jesus through His Word as your Guide for all of life? Will you trust the light of His Word even in dark times?
- How are you growing in the Word?