

"I AM . . . the Light of the World!"—John 8:12

The text for this sermon, the theme of which is, "I AM . . . the Light of the World!", is John 8:12 → *Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows Me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."* This is the text.

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ Jesus:

Light. It is a resource which we take for granted so easily in our everyday lives. We depend upon it as we perform the basic functions of life: reading, eating, driving, walking and so forth. In our times many think of light as electricity even though they are two separate things. This is natural because so much of our light source depends upon electricity. No one has ever seen electricity but most people do see light everyday. Even print, which needs light to illumine that which was printed, is now actually light itself. Compare your computer screen to a printed letter or your television to a printed picture. **Light brings everything to life in its own unique way!** It is also essential for growth and vitality.

It is only fitting that Jesus would describe Himself as *the light of the world*,

essential to your existence! When Jesus talks about Himself as *the light of the world* He calls you to look to Him for the direction you need in your life. What direction? Why would I need any direction? Because of the darkness which surrounds us at every turn in our lives!

You experience this darkness even as you live in the light. You see it every time another murder takes place; every time another death happens; every time people use and abuse one another; every time sinful pride and self-righteous judgment happens; at every encounter of sexual immorality; when slander and gossip reach your ears; **when you look at your own sinful heart**. It is that in which the world lives. That's why Jesus describes Himself as *the light of the world*. He came to deal with the darkness of sin in all it's ugliness and forms once and for all!

Darkness is described in Scriptures in numerous ways:

- ① Jude 1:6 → *And the angels who did not stay within their own position of authority, but left their proper dwelling, He has kept in eternal chains under gloomy darkness until the judgment of the great day.* Here the darkness refers to hell.
- ② John 3:19 → *This is the judgment: the light has come into the world, and people loved the darkness rather than the light because their works were*

evil. Here the darkness refers to sin.

- ③ Ephesians 4:18 → *They are darkened in their understanding, alienated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them, due to their hardness of heart.* Here the darkness refers to those who insist on living life according to their own ways of thinking.
- ④ Ephesians 2:2 → *. . . following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience.* Here the darkness refers to the working of satan in the ways of this world.

Unfortunately there are many times when the direction we seek as we live our lives is based upon *darkness* rather than *light*. As people search for the meaning of “life” and answers about the “afterlife” they will seek out ideas and concepts which are not based upon a relationship with Jesus **as He has revealed and defines that relationship in the Scriptures**. Thus they dream up concepts of Jesus as simply some great teacher of moral behavior and God as the cosmic ATM. They imagine that people die and become angels watching over them, without considering that those dead people may not want to watch all their detestable behaviors for eternity! Since they has some kind of “Jesus flavoring” these concepts are satanic deception in its finest since,

as 2 Corinthians 11:14 says, *satan disguises himself as an angel of light*. As a result, many who think they are living an “enlightened” life are really living in darkness—both physically and spiritually.

Scripture uses the example of *light* many times, constantly connecting it to our understanding and living of *life*. Aside from Jesus using light to describe Himself . . .

- ① . . . Scripture uses it to describe God’s written Word. In Psalm 119:105 the psalmist confessed before Yahweh, the great I AM: *Your Word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path*. It is that which should determine how we think, act, talk and make decisions in our daily walk with Jesus.
- ② Scripture also uses light to describe God Himself. At the restoration of all things on the Last Day all who trust in Jesus, *the light of the world*, will receive new glorified physical bodies to live in God’s restored physical heavens and earth where Revelation 22:5 says *the night will be no more. They will need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light*. God’s glory is constantly described as a blinding brightness which sinful eyes cannot endure. As the great I AM Jesus is described as the glory of God in human flesh. (cf. John 1:14)
- ③ Scripture uses light to describe you. (cf. Matthew 5:14) You are *the light of the*

world as you “shine” into the lives of those around you living in the darkness of sin! Jesus says in Matthew 5:16 to *let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father Who is in heaven.*

Jesus says in our text that *whoever follows Him will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.* Shining with *the light of life* happens when you recognize when you are living in the darkness of sin and see your only hope in Jesus Christ Who has defeated that darkness completely! 1 John 1:5-7 says: *This is the message we have heard from Him and proclaim to you, that God is light, and in Him is no darkness at all. If we say we have fellowship with Him **while we walk in darkness**, we lie and do not practice the truth. But if we walk in the light, as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin.*

The light which Jesus gives also brings to life in it’s own unique way!

As it reveals your sinful heart it also reveals God’s loving heart **for you** in the forgiveness of your sins as you humble yourself in repentance and faith in the Person & Work of Jesus. It affects every area of your life. In this relationship with Jesus the Holy Spirit gives you the ability to look forward to heaven with a sure and certain hope! He gives you the ability to know what’s right and wrong in spiritual discernment as you live life on this earth! He gives you the

ability act and speak different than how the sinful world, which functions in darkness, acts and speaks. He gives you the ability to recognize the Scriptures as God's inspired Word through which you judge all your actions and words in a desire to conform them to His will!

Being connected by faith to Jesus as *the light of the world* puts your relationship with the world in perspective as well. You will recognize the darkness for what it really is whenever you encounter it. You will recognize that the only real enemy is the devil as he tries to discredit the Person & Work of Jesus for you **and for others**. You will confront the world's darkness **with the illuminating Word of Christ**. You will cling to Him and trust Him to perform His will, in His way, in His time, as the Holy Spirit works through you to show Jesus to others. You *will have the light of life*, living in a daily forgiveness of your sins which the world cannot give you. You walk in the light of the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, *the light of the world!* There are two ways to spread the Light—the Light itself and the mirrors that reflects it. Amen.

Do all things without grumbling or disputing,

that you may be blameless and innocent,

children of God without blemish

in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation,

*among whom you shine as lights in the world,
holding fast to the word of life. (Philippians 2:14-16a)*

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