

"LIGHT OF THE WORLD"

I. [1 John 1:5-10 & 2:1-2](#), [John 1:1-5](#), [John 8:12](#), [Matthew 5:14-16](#)...

A. We've been talking about light... Shining like stars in our cold dark world--working out our salvation with fear and trembling--living out the implications and ramifications of being the children of God... Being children of light who bear the fruit of the light (i.e. the fruit of the Spirit). Being changed into the likeness of Jesus Christ... Being witnesses with our lives as well as our words...

B. Definition: Light represents God in His pure transcendent glory, His immaculate holiness, His omnipotent-omniscient-omnipresent sovereignty, His infallible truth, His moral excellence, His magnificent love and His boundless goodness..

C. Before we get to the main text, just who is the *Light of the World*?

- 1) John 1:1-5 Jesus is the *Light of Life*...
- 2) John 8:12 Jesus declares He is the *Light of the world*...
- 3) Matthew 5:14-16 Jesus says we His followers are the *light of the world*...
- 4) A celestial illustration of the sun and moon...

D. 1 John 1:5-10 & 2:1-2 are challenging words for all believers...

1) V5-10 *"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. If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us."*

2) It's one thing to claim to be a Christian-quite another to actually be one...

3) Someone who continues to walk in darkness, open rebellion, disregard for God's Word, is lying about the faith he professes to have... Read: James 2:19...

4) Those who are believers, who walk in the light, still have sin in their lives to contend with... John includes himself with each of us. Read: Romans 7:24-25a...

5) In the meantime, those in the world--yet to be apprehended look on... They see all the impostors and pretenders and they're looking to see if we are the genuine article or not. Would you rather we be stepping stones or stumbling blocks?

E. When we walk in the light, walk in genuine humility, when we're quick to confess, when we respond to the Holy Spirit convicting of us of sin, when the light of God's Word exposes our dark deeds, when we turn from what was hidden and sinful to what is true, right, and Godly, many will see the impact of God's merciful salvation granted to us and perhaps will be made ready to receive Christ and transfer kingdoms.

II. [Communion](#)

A. 1 John 2:1-2 take us to Communion: *"My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. He is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world"*. (Ben Franklin's street light invention...)

B. Pray and serve Communion...

C. Benediction: God is indeed Light and Jesus absolutely is the Light of the world! And we are the light of the world! We are a city on a hill! We are stars meant to shine in the cold dark night! We are children of light who are called to bear the fruit of the light! So let your light so shine before men that they may see your good works--flowing from His awesome amazing Grace--so they too might yield themselves up to God and give glory to His name forevermore!

[Scriptures, Videos, & Bonus Stuff](#)

[1 John 1:5-10 & 2:1-2 \(ESV\)](#)

5 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. 6 If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. 7 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. 8 If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. 9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. 10 If we say we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us. [Chapter 2: 1](#) My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. 2 He is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.

John 1:1-5 (NIV)

1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. **2** He was with God in the beginning. **3** Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. **4** In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. **5** The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

John 8:12 (ESV)

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."

Matthew 5:14-16 (ESV)

14 "You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. **15** Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. **16** In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.

James 2:19 (ESV)

19 You believe that God is one; you do well. Even the demons believe—and shudder!

Romans 7:24-25a (ESV)

24 Wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death? **25** Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!"

The Need for Lights

By Darren Rogers

Benjamin Franklin wanted to interest the people in Philadelphia in street lighting. He did not call a town meeting nor try to persuade the people by talking about it. He acted upon what he considered a good idea. He hung a beautiful lantern on a long bracket in front of his house. He kept the glass polished and carefully trimmed and lit the wick every evening at the approach of dusk. The lamp helped the people see the pavement ahead and made them feel more secure at night. Others began placing lights in front of their houses. Soon Philadelphia recognized the need for street lights.

- From Darren Roger's Sermon *"Keep the Light Burning."*

Edifying Videos

"Light of the World" (Here I Am To Worship) - The African Children's Choir

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vHSDrQihDjw>

"We Are" by Kari Jobe

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zFkwGZT5ft8>

I Am The Light of the World - John Piper (Full Sermon)

<http://www.desiringgod.org/sermons/i-am-the-light-of-the-world>

"My Lighthouse" by Rend Collective Experiment

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6fiE5J_wmY

The Two Scariest Lies in Our World Right Now - Francis Chan

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hINx7m1KW7Y>

Why Does The Sun Shine? :-) (Thanks Tom Foltz!)

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3JdWISF195Y>

Bonus Stuff

Quote by Jim Elliot

"God, I pray Thee, light these idle sticks of my life, that I may burn for Thee. Consume my life, my God, for it is Thine. I seek not a long life, but a full one, like You, Lord Jesus." (Jim Elliot was martyred for his faith by Auca Indians in Ecuador in 1956.)

Quote by Max Lucado

"If He is able to place the stars in their sockets & suspend the sky like a curtain, do you think it is remotely possible that God is able to guide your life? If your God is mighty enough to ignite the sun, could it be that He is mighty enough to light your path? If He cares enough about the planet Saturn to give it rings or Venus to make it sparkle, is there an outside chance that He cares enough about you to meet your needs?"

What did Jesus mean when He said "I am the Light of the World" (John 8:12)?

- S. Michael Houdmann

<http://www.gotquestions.org/light-of-the-world.html>

Question: "What did Jesus mean when He said, 'I am the Light of the World'?"

Answer: "*I am the Light of the world*" ([John 8:12](#)) is the second of seven "**I AM**" declarations of Jesus, recorded only in John's gospel, that point to His unique divine identity and purpose. In declaring Himself to be the Light of the world, Jesus was claiming that He is the exclusive source of spiritual light. No other source of spiritual truth is available to mankind.

There are two types of light in the world. We can perceive one, or both, or neither! When we are born into this world, we perceive physical light and by it we learn of our Creator's handiwork in the things we see. However, although that light is good, there is another Light, a Light so important that the Son of God had to come in order to both declare and impart it to men. [John 8:12](#) records, "*When Jesus spoke again to the people, He said, 'I am the Light of the World. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but have the light of life.'*" The allegory used by the Lord in this verse speaks of the light of His Truth, the light of His Word, the light of eternal Life. Those who perceive the true Light will never walk in spiritual darkness.

We take a candle into a room to dispel the darkness. Likewise, the Light of Jesus Christ has to be taken into the darkness of sin that engulfs the hearts and lives of those who are not following Him. That's the condition behind having this Light – that we follow Him. If we do not follow Him, we will not have this light, this truth, this eternal life.

Physical light is necessary for physical life. The Earth would certainly change very rapidly if there was no longer any sunlight. A forest full of trees with very thick canopies of foliage high above has very little plant life on the ground except for moss or lichen, which needs little sunlight. Plants will never move away from the light – they are said to be positively phototropic, drawn to the light. In the same way, spiritual light is necessary for spiritual life, and this can be a good test of our standing in Christ. The believer will always tend towards spiritual things; he will always tend towards fellowship, prayer, the Word of God, and so on. The unbeliever always does the opposite ([John 1:5](#), [3:19-20](#)) because light exposes his evil and he hates the light. Indeed, no man can come into the true spiritual light of Jesus Christ, unless He is enabled ([John 6:37](#)).

Following Jesus is the condition of two promises in [John 8:12](#). First, His followers will never walk in darkness, which is a reference to the assurance of salvation we enjoy. As true followers of the Light, we will never follow the ways of sin, never live in a state of continually sinning ([1 John 1:5-7](#)). Rather, we repent of our sin in order to stay close to the Light. The second promise is that we will reflect the Light of Life. Just as He came as the Light of the World, He commands us to be 'lights' too. In [Matthew 5:14-16](#) we see believers depicted as the light of the world. Just as the moon has no light of its own, reflecting the light of the sun, so are believers to reflect the Light of Christ so that all can see it in us. The Light is evident to others by the good deeds we do in faith and through the power of the Holy Spirit.

The emphasis here is maintaining a credible and obvious witness in the world, a witness that shows us to be faithful, God-honoring, trustworthy, sincere, earnest and honest in all that we do. Also, we should always be ready to give an account of the hope that we have ([1 Peter 3:15](#)), for the gospel Light we have is not to be covered, but made obvious for all to see and benefit from, that they, too, may leave the darkness and come into the Light.

The Light of the World

By R.C. Sproul

"I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life" ([John 8:12](#)). - [John 8:12-30](#)

Many opinions about the person of Christ circulated during His public ministry. Some thought He was the great eschatological (end-times) prophet ([John 7:40](#)), while others thought He was indeed the Messiah ([7:41](#)). These opinions almost caused Jesus to be arrested because of the chaos they caused ([7:41-43](#)). But "no one laid hands on

Him” because “His hour had not yet come” (7:30, 44). The second “I AM” saying of Jesus follows these events. Face-to-face with an adulteress and Pharisees, He declares, “I am the light of the world” (8:12).

Light and darkness are important motifs found throughout Scripture. Light is often used to describe God and his glory. In his epistles, John tells us that “... God is light and in Him there is no darkness at all” ([1 John 1:5](#)). Jesus, by calling Himself the light of the world, is once again making reference to His deity. Lest there should be any doubt about His claim, there are two other places in the gospels where it is clear that Jesus shares the exact same light as God the Father. The first of these is found at the Transfiguration ([Matt. 17:1–13](#)) where Jesus radiates the refulgent glory of God from within. That Jesus shares the same light with His Father is also made clear in John 1. We are told that the Word is God (1:1) and that this Word who became incarnate in Christ Jesus is the Light shining in the darkness (1:4).

Jesus’ reference to darkness in 8:12 is notable because the Bible often uses darkness as a metaphor for spiritual blindness ([Ps. 107:10](#); [John 3:19](#)). Such blindness cannot subdue the glory of God in Jesus Christ because the darkness will never overcome the light ([John 1:5](#)).

Though the darkness of sin will not finally obscure Christ’s glory, some men just will not see who Christ is. In [John 8:13–20](#), the Pharisees rejected Christ’s testimony about Himself because they said it lacked the second witness required by the law in order to verify its truth. Jesus answered them saying that even if His witness were alone, it would be sufficient because He knows where He came from and where He is going. Jesus came to fulfill the law, and He told the Pharisees that there really are two witnesses, the Father and the Son. The Pharisees, however, missed this because they were concerned only with the details of the law and not the Person to whom the details of the law pointed.

Coram Deo

When we read the Scriptures, it can be easy to become so consumed with the details and intricacies of its requirements that we forget that the whole Bible points to Christ. As you read and study the Bible, ask the Holy Spirit to help you see how all of the details point us to Jesus.

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