

“I Am the Light of the World”

(Compiled by Paul R. Blake)

Introduction:

- A. John 8:12 - “Then Jesus spoke to them again, saying, I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life.”
- B. Humankind loves the light of the sun.
 1. “The idea of more light, more beauty, more love possesses an irresistible magic.” (Ernest Dimmer)
 2. “All the winged things are flying; they come alive when you shine on them.” (Ancient Egyptian poem of the sun)
 3. “Open the bedroom shutters and let in more light.” (Goethe)
 4. “Is it so small a thing to have enjoyed the sun, to have lived in the light of the Spring?” (Arnold)
- B. What is light?
 1. Light stimulates life, activity, and growth.
 2. Light is not only essential to our ability to participate in an activity, it’s essential to our survival.
 3. Living things on earth depend on light. Deprive a plant of light long enough it will wither and die. Deprive an animal of light long enough it will cause it to become confused and physically and mentally weaker.
 4. Deprive a person of light long enough and it can cause disorientation and depression. Light is essential to life.
 5. God is the source of this light - Gen. 1:3
 6. It is a pale, weak light compared to the light of God - Ecc. 11:7-8, 1:5
- C. Jesus is the light for our souls. He is not a light. He is The Light.
 1. Light must first be imparted to us, or it can never go forth from us. We are not lights of the world by nature; at best we were but unlit lamps until the Son of God came.
 2. Just as “I am the Bread of life” in John 6 was a reference to the manna in the wilderness; “I am the Light of the world” is used to illustrate another aspect of Jesus’ Person and work.
 3. Light is a common theme in both the Old and New Testaments.
 - a. God is light - 1John 1:5
 - b. Jesus said His followers were “the light of the world” - Matt. 5:14
 - c. Paul speaks of Christians as “lights in the world” - Phil. 2:15
 4. Jesus’ light metaphor is steeped in Old Testament references.
 - a. The presence of God in the pillar of cloud and fire - Ex. 13:21-22
 - b. “The LORD is my light and my salvation” - Psalm 27:1
 - c. The law of God is a light to guide the path - Psalm 119:105
 - d. God’s light is shed abroad in revelation - Ez. 1:4, 13, 26-28
 - e. The servant of the Lord was appointed to be a light to the Gentiles - Isa. 49:6
 5. When Jesus was in this world, the light of heaven existed in this universe. When He left this world, He left us the means whereby we can become the means by which His light continues to shine.
 - a. John 9:5, 12:35-36; Matt. 5:14-16

I. A STUDY IN CONTRASTS

A. The scriptural view of darkness:

1. Darkness represents evil - Rom. 13:12
2. Darkness represents death - Matt. 8:12
3. Darkness represents confusion and lack of truth - Rom. 1:21-23
4. Darkness is caused by a downward spiral of bad choices and rebellion.
 - a. Rom. 1:18
5. Darkness is the domain of the evil one - Eph. 6:12

B. The scriptural view of light.

1. Light represents true life, goodness, and righteousness - Prov. 4:18
2. Light represents truth, understanding, and wisdom.
3. Light gives guidance and illuminates reality - Psalms 119:105
4. Light dispels darkness and exposes danger.

II. A STUDY IN LIGHT

A. The "I Am the Light of the World" sermon.

1. Made by Jesus in the treasury of the temple (part of the Court of Women) - John 8:20
2. "In the Court of Women were two colossal golden lamp stands, on which hung a multitude of lamps, lighted after the evening sacrifice, probably every evening during the feast of tabernacles, diffusing their brilliancy, it is said, over all the city." (Jameison, Fausset, and Brown)

B. Why "the light of the world"?

1. Not for the Jews only, but for Gentiles as well; not for the first century, but for all of time.
2. Isa. 49:6; 60:1-3; John 12:46

C. Now that the Lord has returned to heaven, we are the light of the world.

1. Phil. 2:15-16; Eph. 5:8