

“I am the Light of the World”

John 8:12

John 8:12, Jesus spoke to the people once more and said, “I am the light of the world. If you follow me, you won’t have to walk in darkness, because you will have the light that leads to life.”

The first thing I want to talk with you about is a “fact.”

A. Fact: “Jesus is the Light of the World.”

He who created Light can make such a claim.

Genesis 1:3, Then God said, “Let there be light,” and there was light.

John 1:1-5, In the beginning the Word already existed. The Word was with God, and the Word was God. [2] He existed in the beginning with God. [3] God created everything through him, and nothing was created except through him. [4] The Word gave life to everything that was created, and his life brought light to everyone. [5] The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness can never extinguish it.

NOTE: Darkness never overcomes light, ever.

We are studying the claims of Jesus. The character of a person making a claim is SO important! What Jesus did, said, and how he lived goes a long way to verify the claims He is making.

John 8:12, Jesus said, “I am the light of the world ...” What does light do?

- Light gives life ... light is the key energy source of the Universe.
- Light organizes time ... there is “day” and “night.”
- Light exposes beauty ... color is useless without the reflection of light.
- Light gives warmth ... this is why cats and dogs nap in a sunbeam.
- Light carries information ... “optical cable” carries data at, literally, the speed of light.
- Light gives hope ... when light is refracted we see the rainbow, a symbol of hope.
- Light gives direction ... there is a phrase “stumbling in the dark,” which I want to talk about next, because you can choose to NOT stumble along in the dark.

The second thing I want to talk with you about is a “choice.”

B. Choice: “If you follow me ...”

John 8:12, Jesus spoke to the people once more and said, “I am the light of the world. **If you follow me, you won’t have to walk in darkness**, because you will have the light that leads to life.”

- You can avoid darkness by following Jesus.
- So how does one “follow Jesus.”
 - Get to know Him. Establish, and grow your relationship.
 - Determine to acquire the “mind of Christ” so you begin thinking like Him.
 - In daily life, filter your experiences and choices through Christ.
 - Obey what you already know Christ wants you to do, going deeper with Him.

Finally, today I want to talk with you about a “destination.”

C. Destination: “Eternal Life.”

John 8:12, Jesus spoke to the people once more and said, “I am the light of the world. If you follow me, you won’t have to walk in darkness, because you will have **the light that leads to life.**”

We think of “eternal life” as referring to what happens after death, as some wonderful future event ... but, for the believer, eternal life starts here and now on earth ...

1 John 5:11-12, And this is what God has testified: He has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. [12] Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have God’s Son does not have life.

Notice the clarity of verse 12: “Know Jesus, know life. No Jesus, no life.”

Let me ask you a question ... is eternal life just for good people? Are the worst of sinners excluded from receiving eternal life? No!

1 Timothy 1:15-17, Here is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners--of whom I am the worst. [16] But for that very reason I was shown mercy so that in me, the worst of sinners, Christ Jesus might display his unlimited patience as an example for those who would

believe on him and receive eternal life. [17] Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory for ever and ever. Amen.

A closing prayer ... “Dear God, pull us from the darkness of a self-directed life to the brilliance of the Christ-directed life. Help us experience eternal life and all of its benefits. In short, Lord, help us to live a ‘well-lit’ lifestyle. In Jesus’ name, amen.”