

# **Eternal Life Through Believing in Jesus**

## **23) The Light of the World**

***'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." The Pharisees therefore said to Him, "You bear witness of Yourself; Your witness is not true." Jesus answered and said to them, "Even if I bear witness of Myself, My witness is true, for I know where I came from and where I am going; but you do not know where I come from and where I am going"'***

***(Jn.8:12-14)***

- ✓ **In the OT, God is seen as His people's light:**  
*'The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear?'* (Psa.27:1)
- ✓ **In the NT too we read that God is light,** *'This is the message which we have heard from Him and declare to you, that God is light and in Him is no darkness at all'* (1 John 1:5). **So, once again Jesus was claiming deity**
- ✓ **Light was an important symbol in the Feast of Tabernacles. During the feast, various emblems and ceremonies reminded the people of the pillar of fire that gave light to Israel in the wilderness. Those who followed it entered the Promised Land. Those who didn't perished.**

**So, here, Jesus took this important symbol and applied it to Himself:**

***'I am the light of the world'* (John 8:12)**

**As we have seen, even before His incarnation He is the light of conscience:**

***'That was the true Light which gives light to every man coming into the world'* (John 1:9)**

**Many seek to extinguish the light**

***'And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. For everyone practicing evil hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed'* (John 3:19)**

**But, to those who believe, Jesus is also the light  
of salvation**

**Twice in Isaiah we read that God covenanted to  
give Jesus as a light to the Gentiles:**

***'I, the LORD, have called you in righteousness,  
and will hold Your hand; I will keep You and give  
You as a covenant to the people, as a light to the  
Gentiles' (Isa.42:6)***

***'It is too small a thing that You should be My  
Servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob, and to  
restore the preserved ones of Israel; I will also  
give You as a light to the Gentiles, that You  
should be My salvation to the ends of the earth'  
(Isa.49:6)***

**Light shines against a backdrop of darkness  
Jesus had just exposed the darkness of the Jewish  
leaders**

**They wanted to remain in darkness because their  
deeds were evil**

**This is how we once were, but not now:**

***'For you were once darkness, but now you are  
light in the Lord. Walk as children of light'  
(Eph.5:8)***

**In this day of grace all those who are in darkness  
may come into the light:**

***'While you have the light, believe in the light, that  
you may become sons of light'  
(John 12:46)***



***'You judge according to the flesh; I judge no one. And yet if I do judge, My judgment is true; for I am not alone, but I am with the Father who sent Me. It is also written in your law that the testimony of two men is true. I am One who bears witness of Myself, and the Father who sent Me bears witness of Me''***

**(John 8:15-18)**

**The Pharisees said that because He testified of Himself, His testimony could not be reliable**

**Jesus, referred once again to their law of the validity of testimony if it consisted of 2 or 3 witnesses. The two witnesses:**

**1) Jesus. He could give testimony of Himself because, a) He knew where He came from - they didn't; b) He judged righteously; they judged according to the flesh and were therefore incapable of judging correctly. He doesn't judge that way, according to appearances, but according to truth and in harmony with His Father**

**2) The Father. We saw how the Father bore witness to the Son in the 5th chapter: i) In His works. 'No man can do these things unless God is with Him'; ii) In the prophecies of the OT.**

**This should encourage us to be faithful in our witness. It's not important whether we are in the minority, or even if we are believed. The question is, are we saying what God says in His Word?**



*'Then they said to Him, "Where is Your Father?" Jesus answered, "You know neither Me nor My Father. If you had known Me, you would have known My Father also." These words Jesus spoke in the treasury, as He taught in the temple; and no one laid hands on Him, for His hour had not yet come' (John 8:19-20)*

**This was probably implying that He was illegitimate**  
*"You do the deeds of your father." Then they said to Him, "We were not born of fornication; we have one Father—God"* **(John 8:41). Jesus' response was, 'You don't know anything about My Father'**

**All this took place in the most public place in Jerusalem. Still, no one laid hands on Him, for His hour had not yet come**

***'Then Jesus said to them again, "I am going away, and you will seek Me, and will die in your sin. Where I go you cannot come." So the Jews said, "Will He kill Himself, because He says, 'Where I go you cannot come'?" And He said to them, "You are from beneath; I am from above. You are of this world; I am not of this world. Therefore I said to you that you will die in your sins; for if you do not believe that I am He, you will die in your sins"'***

**(John 8:21-24)**

**They were engaging in the most dangerous of activities – hardening their hearts**

**There is a difference between asking questions to know the truth, and asking questions to find a reason not to believe**

**\*Previously when He said He was going away, they thought He was planning a mission to the Greeks. Now, they think He is contemplating suicide. *'Will He kill Himself?'* The Jews of Jesus' time taught that the lowest levels of Hades were for those who committed suicide**

**\*Jesus spoke of the dual destinies of Himself and His opponents – He would return to His Father; they would die in their sins**

**\*If we believe Jesus on earth, we will follow Him to heaven. He is the Way**

**\*If we have no desire to know Him on earth, what would make us think we would follow Him to heaven? We will die in our sins**

**\*If they remained in darkness they would die in their sins**

**\*The singular 'sin' (v.21) expresses the root sin of unbelief, 'And when He has come, He will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment: of sin, because they do not believe in Me...' (Jn.16:8-9). The plural refers to particular sins**

**\*To believe in Jesus is to know Him as our sin-bearer**

**\*'If you do not believe that I am He' ('He' is in italics). This was another claim to deity**

**The one who persists in rejection of Christ will die in his sins, unpardoned, unprepared to meet God, unfit for heaven**

**Every person must go to *'his own place'* (Acts 1:25), the place for which he is fitted**

**It is the new birth that fits us for heaven**  
***'Simon Peter said to Him, "Lord, where are You going?" Jesus answered him, "Where I am going you cannot follow Me now, but you shall follow Me afterward"' (John 13:36)***

**But those who die in their sins will be cast into the Lake of Fire, *'which is the second death'* (Rev. 20:14)**



***'Then they said to Him, "Who are You?" And Jesus said to them, "Just what I have been saying to you from the beginning. I have many things to say and to judge concerning you, but He who sent Me is true; and I speak to the world those things which I heard from Him." They did not understand that He spoke to them of the Father. Then Jesus said to them, "When you lift up the Son of Man, then you will know that I am He, and that I do nothing of Myself; but as My Father taught Me, I speak these things. And He who sent Me is with Me. The Father has not left Me alone, for I always do those things that please Him." As He spoke these words, many believed in Him'***

**(John 8:25-30)**



**\*Jesus had told them repeatedly who He was, yet they continued to ask, 'Who are You anyway?'**

**\*They didn't want to know the truth, they wanted to set a trap for Him. He repeated what He had been saying all along. We don't need to give new answers to those who reject the truth**

**\*The answer to the question 'Who are You?' would be displayed when Jesus was lifted up on the cross. That's when the veil was rent and His glory revealed**

**When Jesus was crucified they would see the perfect obedience of the Son to the Father**

**As He spoke these words many did believe in Him**