

# ROOTS - EMBODING DARKNESS

John 8:12-30

LIGHT OF LIFE  
May 28, 2023

Genesis 1:1-4 - In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters. And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light. And God saw that the light was good. And God separated the light from the darkness.

Isaiah 9:2 - The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwell in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shone.

Isaiah 42:6 - I am the Lord; I have called you in righteousness; I will take you by the hand and keep you; I will give you as a covenant for the people, a light for the nations,

John 1:1-5 - In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. In him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

Where God is, there is light

Where God is not, there is darkness

John 8:12 - <sup>12</sup>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."

Follow (Obey, life as disciple): Light of life  
Don't Follow: Walk in darkness

## DARKNESS KEEPS US FROM SEEING HIS AUTHORITY

John 8:13-18 - <sup>13</sup>So the Pharisees said to him, "You are bearing witness about yourself; your testimony is not true." <sup>14</sup>Jesus answered, "Even if I do bear witness about myself, my testimony is true, for I know where I came from and where I am going, but you do not know where I come from or where I am going. <sup>15</sup>You judge according to the flesh; I judge no one. <sup>16</sup>Yet even if I do judge, my judgment is true, for it is not I alone who judge, but I and the Father who sent me. <sup>17</sup>In your Law it is written that the testimony of two people is true. <sup>18</sup>I am the one who bears witness about myself, and the Father who sent me bears witness about me."

1 John 5:9 - If we receive the testimony of men, the testimony of God is greater, for this is the testimony of God that he has borne concerning his Son.

In darkness, we can't rightly acknowledge his authority; we use our own  
In the light, we are able to rightly submit to his authority as we follow him.

Can you blame them?

Not trusting authority

Mask of fake

Psalms 119:105 - Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.

Proverbs 6:23 - For the commandment is a lamp and the teaching a light, and the reproofs of discipline are the way of life,

## "YOU CAN'T BE TRUSTED"

14 - Divine Source - I know where I'm from/going  
15-16 - Divine Judgement - World's fallen standards vs. God's perfect Final vs. situational  
17 - Divine Witness

Deuteronomy 19:15 - A single witness shall not suffice against a person for any crime or for any wrong in connection with any offense that he has committed. Only on the evidence of two witnesses or of three witnesses shall a charge be established.

Me and my Father

## DARKNESS KEEPS US FROM SEEING HIS SONSHIP

John 8:19-20 - <sup>19</sup>They said to him therefore, "Where is your Father?" Jesus answered, "You know neither me nor my Father. If you knew me, you would know my Father also." <sup>20</sup>These words he spoke in the treasury, as he taught in the temple; but no one arrested him, because his hour had not yet come.

## "WHO IS YOUR FATHER? WHERE ARE YOU FROM?"

My Father is God, whom you claim to worship  
To know one of us is to know the other

College friend: why is Jesus such a big deal?

Seen me, seen the Father

Consistent Character of God

In darkness, we can't rightly know God, Jesus, or anything truly life-giving  
In the light, we are able to see and know the son of God and thereby know God himself

## DARKNESS KEEPS US FROM SEEING HIS SALVATION

John 8:21-30 - <sup>21</sup>So he said to them again, "I am going away, and you will seek me, and you will die in your sin. Where I am going, you cannot come." <sup>22</sup>So the Jews said, "Will he kill himself, since he says, 'Where I am going, you cannot come'?" <sup>23</sup>He said to them, "You are from below; I am from above. You are of this world; I am not of this world. <sup>24</sup>I told you that you would die in your sins, for unless you believe that I am he you will die. <sup>25</sup>So they said to him, 'Who are you?' Jesus said to them, 'Just what I have been telling you from the beginning. <sup>26</sup>I have much to say about you and much to judge, but he who sent me is true, and I declare to the world what I have heard from him.' <sup>27</sup>They did not understand that he had been speaking to them about the Father. <sup>28</sup>So Jesus said to them, 'When you have lifted up the Son of Man, then you will know that I am he, and that I do nothing on my own authority, but speak just as the Father taught me. <sup>29</sup>And he who sent me is with me. He has not left me alone, for I always do the things that are pleasing to him.' <sup>30</sup>As he was saying these things, many believed in him.

## "WHAT'S GOING ON? WHO ARE YOU?"

23 - God came to earth; you below, me above  
24 - God died in our place  
You will die in sin if you don't believe in me  
25-30 - God exalted self in gospel  
I remain faithful to Father, raised up on cross to die for sins

Saving faith - sometimes the gospel just works its way into hearts, in all the messiness. We are not in control

You don't need to know everything about God to follow Jesus. Take one step of obedience and discipleship at a time.

Shaky steps in the light are much more blessed than confident strides in the darkness.

Penultimate Study - we need the Spirit!

Francis Chan - The Holy Spirit is absolutely vital to our situation today. Of course, He is always vital; but perhaps especially now. After all, if the Holy Spirit moves, nothing can stop Him. If He doesn't move, we will not produce genuine fruit--no matter how much effort or money we expend. The church becomes irrelevant when it becomes purely a human creation. We are not all we were made to be when everything in our lives and churches can be explained apart from the work and presence of the Spirit of God.

<sup>24</sup>I told you that you would die in your sins, for unless you believe that I am he you will die in your sins."  
John 8:24 ESV  
<https://bible.com/bible/59/jhn.8.24> ESV