

That You May Have Life In His Name John 8:12–30 (ESV): I Am the Light of the World

Pastor Matt Dean

I Am the Light of the World

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.” 13 So the Pharisees said to him, “You are bearing witness about yourself; your testimony is not true.” 14 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. 15 You judge according to the flesh; I judge no one. 16 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. 17 In your Law it is written that the testimony of two people is true. 18 I am the one who bears witness about myself, and the Father who sent me bears witness about me.” 19 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.” 20 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. 21 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.” 22 So the Jews said, “Will he kill himself, since he says, ‘Where I am going, you cannot come?’” 23 He said to them, “You are from below; I am from above. You are of this world; I am not of this world. 24 I told you that you would die in your sins, for unless you believe that I am he you will die in your sins.” 25 So they said to him, “Who are you?” Jesus said to them, “Just what I have been telling you from the beginning. 26 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.” 27 They did not understand that he had been speaking to them about the Father. 28 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. 29 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.” 30 As he was saying these things, many believed in him.

- I am the light of the world - whoever follows me will not walk in darkness but will have the the light of life
- Jesus says “My testimony is true”
- Just as light bears witness to itself - Jesus bears witness about himself and the Father also bears witness “This is my Son in whom I am well pleased”
- Jesus says “if you know me you know my Father”
- You are from below, and I from above
- You are of this world, I am not of this world
- You will die in your sins unless you believe I am from the Father
- He who sent me is TRUE and I am declaring to the world what I have heard from HIM
- When you have lifted up the Son of Man - then you will know that I am HE, that I do nothing on my own authority, but speak JUST as the Father taught me.
- He who sent me IS WITH ME. He has not left me alone. I do what pleases HIM

Let's remember that in John 6:35-40, Jesus says I AM THE BREAD OF LIFE

³⁵ Jesus said to them, *"I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst. ³⁶ But I said to you that you have seen me and yet do not believe. ³⁷ All that the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never cast out. ³⁸ For I have come down from heaven, not to do my own will but the will of him who sent me. ³⁹ And this is the will of him who sent me, that I should lose nothing of all that he has given me, but raise it up on the last day. ⁴⁰ For this is the will of my Father, that everyone who looks on the Son and believes in him should have eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day."*

(Jn 6:35-40)

This is the second I AM statement so far in John's gospel.

"I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."

The OT is rich with images of LIGHT and God's presence:

- God's glorious presence (cloud by day/fire by night) led them through the wilderness to the promised land
- Psalm 27:1 "The Lord is my light and my salvation"
- Psalm 36:9 "For with you is the fountain of life; in your light do we see light."
- Psalm 119:105 "Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path."
- Ezekiel 1:4:28 The Glory of the Lord

⁴ As I looked, behold, a stormy wind came out of the north, and a great cloud, with brightness around it, and fire flashing forth continually, and in the midst of the fire, as it were gleaming metal. ⁵ And from the midst of it came the likeness of four living creatures. And this was their appearance: they had a human likeness, ⁶ but each had four faces, and each of them had four wings. ⁷ Their legs were straight, and the soles of their feet were like the sole of a calf's foot. And they sparkled like burnished bronze. ⁸ Under their wings on their four sides they had human hands. And the four had their faces and their wings thus: ⁹ their wings touched one another. Each one of them went straight forward, without turning as they went. ¹⁰ As for the likeness of their faces, each had a human face. The four had the face of a lion on the right side, the four had the face of an ox on the left side, and the four had the face of an eagle. ¹¹ Such were their faces. And their wings were spread out above. Each creature had two wings, each of which touched the wing of another, while two covered their bodies. ¹² And each went straight forward. Wherever the spirit would go, they went, without turning as they went. ¹³ As for the likeness of the living creatures, their appearance was like burning coals of fire, like the appearance of torches moving to and fro among the living creatures. And the fire was bright, and out of the fire went forth lightning. ¹⁴ And the living creatures darted to and fro, like the appearance of a flash of lightning.

¹⁵ Now as I looked at the living creatures, I saw a wheel on the earth beside the living creatures, one for each of the four of them. ¹⁶ As for the appearance of the wheels and their construction: their appearance was like the gleaming of beryl. And the four had the

same likeness, their appearance and construction being as it were a wheel within a wheel. ¹⁷ When they went, they went in any of their four directions without turning as they went. ¹⁸ And their rims were tall and awesome, and the rims of all four were full of eyes all around. ¹⁹ And when the living creatures went, the wheels went beside them; and when the living creatures rose from the earth, the wheels rose. ²⁰ Wherever the spirit wanted to go, they went, and the wheels rose along with them, for the spirit of the living creatures was in the wheels. ²¹ When those went, these went; and when those stood, these stood; and when those rose from the earth, the wheels rose along with them, for the spirit of the living creatures was in the wheels.

²² Over the heads of the living creatures there was the likeness of an expanse, shining like awe-inspiring crystal, spread out above their heads. ²³ And under the expanse their wings were stretched out straight, one toward another. And each creature had two wings covering its body. ²⁴ And when they went, I heard the sound of their wings like the sound of many waters, like the sound of the Almighty, a sound of tumult like the sound of an army. When they stood still, they let down their wings. ²⁵ And there came a voice from above the expanse over their heads. When they stood still, they let down their wings.

²⁶ And above the expanse over their heads there was the likeness of a throne, in appearance like sapphire; and *seated above the likeness of a throne was a likeness with a human appearance.* ²⁷ *And upward from what had the appearance of his waist I saw as it were gleaming metal, like the appearance of fire enclosed all around. And downward from what had the appearance of his waist I saw as it were the appearance of fire, and there was brightness around him.* ²⁸ *Like the appearance of the bow that is in the cloud on the day of rain, so was the appearance of the brightness all around. Such was the appearance of the likeness of the glory of the Lord. And when I saw it, I fell on my face, and I heard the voice of one speaking.*

(Eze 1:4–28)

The brightness of the glory of the Lord – where living creatures covered in eyes behold His glory... is standing in Jerusalem, making the bold statement, I am the light of the world.

The Feast of Booths / Feast of Tabernacles was an annual feast to remember God's protection over them in the wilderness, and part of this celebration included lights... *During the evening of the first day the court of women was lit by a golden candlestick, perhaps a symbol of the pillar of fire which accompanied the Israelites on their wilderness wanderings. Often the more prominent men participated in torch dances accompanied by joyful music.* (Erdmans)

Jesus is making a claim to authority and the rest of the passage shows Jesus claiming divine authority to many Jews who find this offensive and hard to believe.

The Jews were looking at this man, Jesus – and could not see Who was standing before them

- Jesus their light and salvation standing before them
- Jesus the fountain of life in whose light they see light before them
- Jesus the lamp to their feet and the light to their path
- Jesus the Word made flesh standing before them

The end of this passage says that upon hearing Jesus speak... “many believed in him.”

“I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.”

Jesus is the light of the world – and therefore the world needs to see, hear, and believe this. I’m reminded again, that God is building a kingdom that reflects all nations, tribes and tongues.

Jesus us the light of the world – and therefore those who believe in Jesus walk in His light. Jesus says whoever follows me, will NOT walk in darkness but will HAVE the light of life.

The more I reflect on what it means to believe, to walk in faith the more I recognize how urgent it is for us to hold on to what is true, to actively faithfully remember God’s faithfulness and attributes.

The world wages war against this.
 Sin wages war against this.
 Our flesh wages war against this.
 The evil one wages war against this.

Jesus has already won and we live from a place of His meritorious work and worth.
 If you are following Jesus – but it feels like you are walking in darkness or you are walking in a dark night of your soul.... Remember you have and will have the light of life.

Paul writes this to encourage the church – (Col 1:13–23a)

¹³ He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, ¹⁴ in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

The Preeminence of Christ

¹⁵ He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. ¹⁶ For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. ¹⁷ And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together. ¹⁸ And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent.

¹⁹ For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, ²⁰ and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross.

²¹ And you, who once were alienated and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds, ²² he has now reconciled in his body of flesh by his death, in order to present you holy and blameless and above reproach before him, ²³ if indeed you continue in the faith, stable and steadfast, not shifting from the hope of the gospel that you heard,

(Col 1:13–23a)

The domain of darkness – the kingdom of Jesus / the Light of the World

This means redemption, the forgiveness of sins

We believe this in faith:

He is – The image of the invisible God

By Him – All things created

He is – Before all things

In Him – All things hold together

He is – The head of the church

He is – Preeminent in everything

In Him – All the fullness of God

Through Him - peace by the blood of His Cross

We once alienated – Now reconciled to be presented holy and blameless and above reproach before Him

This is the life of faith:

If indeed you

continue in the faith (in everyday life with Jesus, praising in victory, repenting in failure)

stable and steadfast (because He is the stable one in us, because He is steadfast and faithful)

Not shifting from the hope of the gospel (because our only hope is in Him)