

Jesus is the LIGHT of the world

The OT promised that when the Messiah came it would be a time of spiritual light for Israel and the whole world (Is. 9:2; 42:6; 49:6; 60:19-22). Additionally, a descendent of Abraham was promised to be a blessing to all the nations of the earth (Gen. 12:1-3). This means God's plan was to bring light and love to His lost and broken world. *Though the world has physical light from the sun, it is in spiritual darkness from sin.* During the Feast of Tabernacles, Jesus uses the illumination of large lamps in the Court of Women at the Temple to illustrate this truth. Like the earth gets light from the sun as its singular source (we aren't even able to see our moon *at night* without the sun!), Jesus claims to be the singular source of spiritual light for the world. *As one sun sets, the other Son is about to shine!*

Christians must FOLLOW Christ

As there is no artificial light in the first century, Jesus compares every person's journey through life to walking on a path at night with no light to guide their way. *Every person is in motion, but not every person knows their direction.* Knowing this, God in His love pursues people and shines a light into their lostness. It is one thing to see some light in the darkness; it is another to see it, move towards it and use it to illuminate your way. Unfortunately, many people love the dark and will stay there because the light is too revealing (John 3:19, 20). The light of Jesus exposes and explains our need for a Savior. *A new Light brings a new life* (2 Cor. 5:17)! As Jesus is the believer's light, *he* sets the path for their lives. With this new light and guidance, people not only find God, but can now also follow Him. *You can't be a follower if you're not following.*

Christians are to SHINE the light

Like physical creatures need sunlight to live, so followers of Jesus will get life-giving 'Sonlight' (John 1:4, 5). This means that one of the ways God shines a light into the darkness to help others see Him is through those who were once in the dark themselves! A new life with Jesus not only provides the 'what' of salvation but also the 'why' of salvation—we are saved to help others find salvation. *Those with the Light should shine the Light so those without the Light can find the Light* (Matt. 5:14-16)!