

Scripture:

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.

John 3:19-21

And this is the judgment: the light has come into the world, and people loved the darkness rather than the light because their works were evil. For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his works should be exposed. But whoever does what is true comes to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that his works have been carried out in God."

John 8:12

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."

Notes:

John 3:19-21

- LIFE — zoe — life, but more than simple biology, essence of living, source of living
- LIGHT — phos — light, in contrast to the dark; usually referring to a source like the moon, sun, or a lamp.
- DARKNESS — scotos — the realm of sin, evil world; not simply the absence of light

John 1:4-5

In Jesus is the power to live beyond just breathing but living to the full. He is that life. He is the source of that life. That power shines brightly in the evil world and it overpowers the realm of sin.

Context Matters

- Celebrating the Feast of Booths or Tabernacles
- Commemorates the Israelites wandering wilderness.
- Purpose is to help the people remember the Lord and His work on their behalf and to worship him appropriately.
- Priests would draw water from pool of Siloam and pour it on the altar
- Woman Caught in Adultery (7:53-8:11)
- Priests light lamps in the courtyard
- Definite references to Isaiah 42, 49, 50, 53

Historical Understanding

- That light represented freedom from bondage
- That light represented protection from the enemy
- That light represented victory over the enemy
- That light represented guidance through the wilderness
- That light represented the presence of God

Present Understanding

- That light represents the source of life (physical)
- That light represents the revelation of God (spiritual)
- That light represents the presence of God
- That light represents the exposure of sin
- That light represents the victory over sin

Follow Him

- “Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life”
- Ephesians 5:8–9, “...now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light...”
- Matthew 5:14–16, “You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden.”

Without Jesus we are... lost and walking in darkness.

BUT, Jesus is the light of the world

Therefore, with Jesus we are... light, too. So, walk/live/shine like it.

THIS WEEK

1. Reflect — Look back at your life before Christ. What was it like in the darkness? What is it like now the light?
2. Write — Write a prayer of thanksgiving to God, acknowledging His Light...His rescue, protection, victory, guidance, and presence.
3. Together — We are better together. How can you encourage someone this week to “walk as children of light”?
4. Shine — How can you be a light in the darkness this week? Be specific. Share it with someone else for the sake of accountability.