

John 8:12 – Jesus is God: He is the Light of the World

TSK, Family, FFG, Geneva, HebrewLexicon, Rienecker, Morris, Barnes, Calvin, Clarke, Eclectic, Expositor, Gill, Trapp, Robertson, Vincent, Poole, Beloved in the Lord: I am sure you are starting to see Christmas lights all over Scarborough now. I like them too. It is quite a dark time and the sun sets about 5 or earlier. The lights cheer me up. Maybe they cheer you up too.

The Lord Jesus described himself as Light, except he is a much brighter light and the world is in much deeper darkness. He is so bright the world can see him. No wonder he described himself as the “Light of the World.”

Now this is the 2nd of Jesus’ “I Am” statements. These statements show his Deity, which *emphasized his qualifications* to be the infinite God-man, the only one who was fit to die for the sins of the world.

Our headings are:

How is Jesus the Light of the World

What are the implications of the Light of the World to you

Our goals are: **That you will let the Light of the World shine on you so you can see your sins, that you will learn how to walk in his light, and that you will shine this light for the world to see their sins.**

How is Jesus the Light of the World

12 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."

1. Jesus directly claimed to be the Light of the World.

(He is a liar, a lunatic, or the Lord by saying this! He is the Lord!) So when the Pharisees rebuked him for bearing witness of himself and claiming he was the Light of the World, **Jesus rebuked them!**

John 8:13 The Pharisees therefore said to Him, "**You bear witness of Yourself**; Your witness is not true." 14 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.

The point Jesus was making was that **he could not have another be a witness of him as the Light of the World as no one on earth had gone to heaven to get directions from the Father.** And of course, he was right. **He even repeated this claim.** He had to give witness for himself.

John 9:5 "As long as I am in the world, **I am the light of the world.**"

2. Jesus did not make up this doctrine out of thin air; the Old Testament described Jesus as the Light of the World.

a. Malachi described Jesus as the Sun of Righteousness...removing darkness and giving light so his people could rejoice! Jesus would liberate those who were trapped and they would run free like stall-fed calves do when they are freed.

Malachi 4: 2 But to you who fear My name The Sun of Righteousness shall arise With healing in His wings; **And you shall go out And grow fat like stall-fed calves.**

b. Jesus was the pillar of light by night so the children of Israel could be warm in the cold desert nights as they traveled from Egypt to Canaan and also see what they were doing. When the light moved, the people moved.

c. Jesus’ Word is a lamp to man’s feet and a light to his path. He is the Word of God and that Word was Light!

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

Psalms 19:8 The statutes of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart; The commandment of the LORD is pure, **enlightening the eyes;**

d. Jesus was pictured in the great lights at the Feast of the Tabernacles (Ingatherings, Sukkot). Jesus’ enemies, who had just celebrated the Feast of the Tabernacles, **would have understood what Jesus was claiming here.** Specifically, **On the 1st day of the feast the moon replaced the sun without interruption and the lamps were lighted,** but those lamps were put out on the last day of the feast. In

this context Jesus said: "**I am the uninterrupted, ever-present Light of the World.**

Because the Pharisees knew the lights of the Feast of Tabernacles pictured God, they realized Jesus was claiming Deity.

e. Jesus was pictured by the prophets as one who would bring light (enlightenment) to the world. All three of these prophecies were directly linked to the Savior.

Isaiah 60:1 Arise, shine; **For your light has come!** And the glory of the LORD is risen upon you.

Isaiah 49:6 Indeed He says, '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.'"

Isaiah 9:2 **The people who walked in darkness Have seen a great light;** Those who dwelt in the land of the shadow of death, Upon them a light has shined.

3. There was also an important event that gave new meaning to the "Light of the World" during the Inter-Testamental times.

After the Antiochus Epiphanes, the rising star in the collapsed Greek Empire, **invaded Jerusalem, he polluted the temple** by sacrificing pigs on the altar. **There was a notable cleansing after he was driven out by Judas Maccabeus.** When that temple was cleaned out, **the Jews began a ceremony of lights -** Hannukah.

Judas drew from the promise of light and the fact that light caused darkness to go away. Light appeared in the temple again. The Jews still celebrate that day today as they wait for the Messiah who has already come!

The Jewish rabbis used to pray with expectation of Messiah: "The Israelites said to God, O Lord of the universe, thou commandest us to light lamps to thee, yet thou art THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD: and with thee the light dwelleth."

4. People in the New Testament pointed to Jesus as being the Light of the World, acknowledging Divine characteristics to him.

Apostle John, Jesus' closest friend, confirmed this.

John 1: 6 There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. 7 This man came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all through him might believe. 8 He was not that Light, but was sent to bear witness of that Light. **9 That was the true Light which gives light to every man coming into the world.**

Simeon, picking from Isaiah, testified to this as well.

Luke 2:32 A light to bring revelation to the Gentiles, And the glory of Your people Israel." **Since only God saves, and it is Jesus who causes the Gentiles to be saved, then Jesus is God.**

5. You will also notice when Jesus was born, the glory of God was present to the shepherds, and later, the wisemen used the star to find where Jesus was!

6. Jesus can shine his light to every part of the world at the same time; he is the Light of the World!

Whoever follows him will not be in darkness.

Who can shine on every part of the world at the same time but God?

7. Jesus' light illumines his Word, which leads men to salvation and leads them in their salvation worldwide!

Without the sun there will be no life on earth, without the Son there will be no spiritual life on earth. His light brings life!

What are the implications of the Light of the World to you?

1. Receive the Light of the World so you can see your sins, so you can experience salvation, and so you can serve the Lord!

You are absolutely blind without the Light of the World.

2. Reflect the Light of the World to the world so they can see their sins, be saved, and serve the Lord.

Philippian 2: 14 Do all things without complaining and disputing, 15 that you may become blameless and harmless, children of God without fault in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you **shine as lights in the world**,

You are not the source of light; you merely reflect the Light! This is why Aaron and Theodore were singing "This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine," last week! **Young and old must reflect that light.**

3. Refuse to walk in darkness when you are tempted by the Devil to do so!

It is true men are spiritually blind and they need their eyes opened! That is the work of Christ through the light of the Gospel.

John 12:46 "I have come as a light into the world, that whoever believes in Me should not abide in darkness.

When you are tempted to stray in darkness, let the Gospel shine on you, which is the Light of Christ, so you see that sin, and you can run away from it.

Watch out for dangers. **There are so many dangers that lead men astray, so you must stay in the light so you can be guided to life and light.**

Let God's Word be a lamp to your feet and a light to your path – the near and far picture!

4. Resist fearing the darkness of this world!

You have the Life and Light in you! If you stay in the light, you won't get lost. Lusts won't be attractive.

5. Remind anyone and everyone who is not in the Light that there is no other one in this world who can saved them and invite them to come to Christ for all their needs.

Have you ever heard some scream after walking into the edge of a wall at night...or walking on a tiny Lego block? If you are next to the light switch, wouldn't you turn it on? What about those walking to hell and in darkness, wouldn't you switch on the light?

6. Remember, with darkness there is death; with the Light, there is life.

Conclusion:

Jesus is the Light of the World. This is confirmed in the Old Testament, by Inter-Testamental evidence, and taught in the New Testament. Jesus is the Light, **reflecting the Gospel**, leading men to see their sin, receive their salvation, and learn how to serve him. **There is no one or nothing else that can do these things. Those who run after any other thing will spend eternity in hell.**

Beloved in the Lord

1. Is your eye fixed on Jesus? Only in his light you can see all you need to see to be safe! If your eyes are fixed on Jesus, you will be saved from sin, infidelity, and ignorance. If your eyes are fixed on Jesus, you won't be following your own way, but you would let God guide you and you would walk in his way! If you are in Jesus, you will reflect that light by all your thoughts, words, and actions.

2. Are you willing to help those who are trapped in sin and darkness? Do you love them enough to turn them on to Jesus? Do you love Jesus enough to turn on the light so others can see and live? The Light of the World desires that others worship him and you can lead them to the Door...so they can enter the Light.

Finally, in God's Light you see! Do you see your sins? Do you see how you need to be set free from them? Do you see that only Jesus Christ can wash away your sins permanently? This is the only hope you have. Use it.