

“I Am the Light of the World”

John 8:12 - “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.”

Humankind Loves The Light Of The Sun

- “The idea of more light, more beauty, more love possesses an irresistible magic.” (Ernest Dimmer)
- “All the winged things are flying; they come alive when you shine on them.” (Ancient Egyptian poem of the sun)
- “Open the bedroom shutters and let in more light.” (Goethe)
- “Is it so small a thing to have enjoyed the sun, to have lived in the light of the Spring?” (Arnold)

What Is Light?

- Light stimulates life, activity, and growth.
- Light is not only essential to our ability to participate in an activity, it's essential to our survival.
- Living things on earth depend on light. Deprive a plant of light long enough it will wither and die. Deprive an animal of light long enough it will cause it to become confused and physically and mentally weaker.
- Deprive a person of light long enough and it can cause disorientation and depression. Light is essential to life.

What Is Light?

- God is the source of this light
 - Gen. 1:3 - “Then God said, Let there be light; and there was light.”
- It is a pale, weak light compared to the light of God
 - Ecc. 11:7-8 - “Truly the light is sweet, And it is pleasant for the eyes to behold the sun; 8 But if a man lives many years And rejoices in them all, Yet let him remember the days of darkness, For they will be many. All that is coming is vanity.”
 - Ecc. 1:5 - “The sun also rises, and the sun goes down, And hastens to the place where it arose.”

Jesus Is The Light For Our Souls

- He is not a light. He is The Light.
- Light must first be imparted to us, or it can never go forth from us. We are not lights of the world by nature; at best we were but unlit lamps until the Son of God came.

Jesus Is The Light For Our Souls

- Light is a common theme in both the Old and New Testaments.
 - God is light - 1John 1:5
 - Jesus said His followers were “the light of the world” - Matt. 5:14
 - Paul speaks of Christians as “lights in the world” - Phil. 2:15

Jesus Is The Light For Our Souls

- Jesus' light metaphor is steeped in Old Testament references.
 - The presence of God in the pillar of cloud and fire - Ex. 13:21-22
 - “The LORD is my light and my salvation” - Psalm 27:1
 - The law of God is a light to guide the path - Psalm 119:105
 - God's light is shed abroad in revelation - Ez. 1:4, 13, 26-28
 - The servant of the Lord was appointed to be a light to the Gentiles - Isa. 49:6

Jesus Is The Light For Our Souls

- When Jesus was in this world, the light of heaven existed in this universe. When He left this world, He left us the means whereby we can become the means by which His light continues to shine.
 - John 9:5 - “As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.”

Jesus Is The Light For Our Souls

- John 12:35-36 - “Then Jesus said to them, A little while longer the light is with you. Walk while you have the light, lest darkness overtake you; he who walks in darkness does not know where he is going. 36 While you have the light, believe in the light, that you may become sons of light. These things Jesus spoke, and departed, and was hidden from them.”
- Matt. 5:14-16 - “You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. 15 Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. 16 Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.”

A Study In Contrasts

- The scriptural view of darkness
- Darkness represents evil
 - Rom. 13:12 - “The night is far spent, the day is at hand. Therefore let us cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armor of light.”
- Darkness represents death
 - Matt. 8:12 - “But the sons of the kingdom will be cast out into outer darkness. There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.”

A Study In Contrasts

- Darkness represents confusion and lack of truth
 - Rom. 1:21-23 - “Because, although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened. 22 Professing to be wise, they became fools, 23 and changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like corruptible man--and birds and four-footed animals and creeping things.”

A Study In Contrasts

- Darkness is caused by a downward spiral of bad choices and rebellion
 - Rom. 1:18 - “For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness”
- Darkness is the domain of the evil one
 - Eph. 6:12 - “For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.”

A Study In Contrasts

- The scriptural view of light
- Light represents true life, goodness, and righteousness
 - Prov. 4:18 - “But the path of the just is like the shining sun, That shines ever brighter unto the perfect day.”
- Light represents truth, understanding, and wisdom.
- Light gives guidance and illuminates reality
 - Psalms 119:105 - “Your word is a lamp to my feet And a light to my path.”
- Light dispels darkness and exposes danger.

A Study In Light

- The “I Am the Light of the World” sermon was made by Jesus in the treasury of the temple, part of the Court of Women - John 8:20
- “In the Court of Women were two colossal golden lamp stands, on which hung a multitude of lamps, lighted after the evening sacrifice, probably every evening during the feast of tabernacles, diffusing their brilliancy, it is said, over all the city.” (Jameison, Fausset, and Brown)

A Study In Light

- Why “the light of the world”?
- Not for the Jews only, but for Gentiles as well; not for the first century, but for all of time
 - Isa. 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.”

A Study In Light

- Isa. 60:1-3 - “Arise, shine; For your light has come! And the glory of the LORD is risen upon you. 2 For behold, the darkness shall cover the earth, And deep darkness the people; But the LORD will arise over you, And His glory will be seen upon you. 3 The Gentiles shall come to your light, And kings to the brightness of your rising.”
- John 12:46 - “I have come as a light into the world, that whoever believes in Me should not abide in darkness.”

A Study In Light

- Now that the Lord has returned to heaven, we are the light of the world
 - Phil. 2:15-16 - “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, 16 holding fast the word of life, so that I may rejoice in the day of Christ that I have not run in vain or labored in vain.”
 - Eph. 5:8 - “For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light”