

## Jesus the Light of the World

John 8:12 New American Standard Bible (NASB)

*Then Jesus again spoke to them, saying, "I am the **Light** of the world; the one who follows Me will not walk in the darkness, but will have the **Light** of life."*

### Introduction

This morning, I invite you once again to ponder Jesus' identity: Jesus is the Light of the World. He is the Light of Life.

### Content

Since we are going to talk about light and darkness, let me begin with what I mean by light and darkness.

#### What Is Light?

Here's a standard definition of light: *"the natural agent that stimulates sight and makes things visible"* (Oxford Dictionaries). Here's a little more scientific explanation of light. *"In physics, the term "light" may refer more broadly to electromagnetic radiation of any wavelength, whether visible or not. The main source of natural light on Earth is the Sun. Sunlight provides the energy that green plants use to create sugars mostly in the form of starches, which release energy into the living things that digest them. This process of photosynthesis provides virtually all the energy used by living things"* (<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Light>). In a nutshell, everything begins with light. Every creature, animals and plants alike, needs the light for their movement and survival. Every living thing grows and thrives in the light. Also, the light originates from its source, the Sun.

God's Word also talks about light. The word 'light' appears 232 times in the Bible: from the first book, in the middle of the book, and in the end of the Bible (Genesis, Psalms, and Revelation). God is the Sun to all of us (Psalm 84:11). He commands us to walk in the light (Isaiah 2:5). Those who walk in His light never stumble.

#### What Is Darkness?

Simply put, it is the opposite of light—or the absence of light (Einstein). Nothing grows or thrives in darkness except evil. The Bible also talks about ‘darkness’ 151 times, often referring to a person’s spiritual condition—the *lack or absence of God*. For instance, **we were darkness** before we came to know the Lord. **We were of darkness** before Christ rescued us from its power and transferred us into the light. Today, too many people still live in the darkness.

### **The devil Keeps the World in the Darkness.**

Before we became a believer in Christ, the devil kept us in the chains of a dark dungeon. He hates us doing what is right and good in the sight of the LORD, so he would do anything to keep us from coming to the light and to the truth. While in darkness, blind to the light and to the truth, we stumbled a lot and sinned against God.

Too many people today are in the same condition. Kept in darkness, they are so blind that they refuse to come to Jesus the Light: *“And the Light shines in the **darkness**, and the **darkness** did not grasp it”* (John 1:5). The devil puts a veil over the hearts of the people to block the gospel message: *“The god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelieving so that they will not see the **light** of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God”* (2 Corinthians 4:4). The only way for the veil to be taken away is to turn to the Lord (2 Corinthians 3:16). When the veil is taken away, *Christ the Light will shine in their hearts* (2 Corinthians 4:6) and they will start walking in the Light.

Beware of the power of darkness, because it can overtake, overshadow, and darken your life path: *“So Jesus said to them, “For a little while longer the Light is among you. Walk while you have the Light, so that **darkness** will not overtake you; also, the one who walks in the **darkness** does not know where he is going”* (John 12:35). Unless you follow the light and walk in it, the darkness will overtake you and you will lose the sense of where you are going. You will not know what is right and what is wrong in your life. Totally overtaken by the darkness, some people do what is evil, and prefer to stay in the darkness, because they don’t want to be exposed (John 3:19).

At the end of the darkness, there comes the ultimate darkness a.k.a. the judgement of God. The Word of God testifies: *“And this is the judgment, that the Light has come into the world, and people loved the **darkness** rather than the Light; for their deeds were evil”* (John 3:19). The devil, fallen angels, and those who follow the devil will God cast into hell at the Final judgment: *“For if God did not spare angels when they sinned, but cast them into hell and committed them to pits of **darkness**, held for judgment;”* (2 Peter 2:4).

**Christ the Light Came to Rescue the World from the Darkness:** The Scripture says that we all were darkness once (Ephesians 5:8) before we became a believer in Christ. And to rescue us from the darkness, Christ came to earth: *“I have come as Light into the world, so that no one who believes in Me will remain in **darkness**”* (John 12:46). Thank God who *“rescued us from the domain of **darkness**, and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son”* (Colossians 1:13). Now, we are in the Light, in the Kingdom of God, not in the darkness.

Now, let's go to today's text and listen to what Jesus says about Himself. He says,

**I Am the Light of the World:**

Out of so many forms God could've sent His Son to the world, He sent Jesus as the Light of the world. Why? Because light is the source of life and the answer to the darkness. Christ is the Light of life that humanity cannot live without. He is the Light that turns people's heart to the Father. He is the Light that leads us to the truth. He is the Light of the world, and He is the answer for the world.

This reminds me of one song in the 1980s written by Andrae Crouch: *“Jesus is the Answer”*: *“Jesus Is The Answer For The World Today, Above Him There's No Other, Jesus Is The Way. ...”*

Let us declare to the world that Christ is the answer for all the problems of the world today: war, conflict, strife, hate, division, inequality, confusion, darkness, and injustice. He is the Light that will dispel every form of darkness. He is the Love that will dispel hate from every heart. He is the Truth that will clear out all confusion and lies. He is the Light for humanity to follow, because He illumines our paths with truth and love.

Christ also says that...

**The one who follows Me will not walk in the darkness, but will have the Light of life.**

Anyone who follows Him will not walk in the darkness, Christ says. They will have the Light of life instead. Get this. The mark of a true Christian is walking in the Light. People in the world will know that we are Christians by our love, we say. Christ will know we are His followers when He sees us walk in the light. By the way, Jesus commands us to walk in the Light *“...so that **darkness** will not overtake you;”*(John 12:35). Unless we walk in the light, we will be overtaken by the darkness.

Let me tell you one case where the darkness has overtaken the believers. Hate and unforgiveness. John the Apostle wrote: *“The one who says that he is in the Light and yet **hates** his brother or sister is in the **darkness** until now”* (1 John 2:9). *“But the one who hates his brother or sister is in the **darkness** and walks in the **darkness**, and does not know where he is going because the **darkness** has blinded his eyes”* (1 John 2:11). If you hate someone, you are overtaken by the darkness, and you are not walking in the light. You are still in the darkness until now, and still walk in the darkness. Furthermore, the darkness has blinded your eyes, therefore, you don’t know where you are going. You don’t know what truth is and what is not.

There’s another gospel song written by Michael Card: You are the light of the world, O Lord. *“You are the light of the world, oh Lord And you make your servants shine. So, how could there be any darkness in me If You are the light of the world. You are the light of the world.”*

### **So, Who Is Jesus, Really?**

Listen to His own testimony: *“I am the **Light** of the world;”*(John 8:12). *“While I am in the world, I am the **Light** of the world”* (John 9:5). He also said in John 12:46: *“I have come as **Light** into the world, so that no one who believes in Me will remain in darkness.”* Based on His testimonies, I would say,...

**Christ Is the Everlasting Light.** Light dwells with the LORD. So does it with Christ. The LORD *reveals deep and secret things; He knows what is in the darkness* (Daniel 2:22). So does Christ. God the Father dwells in unapproachable light (1 Timothy 6:16). So does the Son. There’s no shifting shadow with God (James 1:17) or with Christ. The LORD covers Himself with light as with a cloak (Psalm 104:1-2). So does Christ. The LORD is a sun and shield (Psalm 84:11). So is Christ.

Concerning Jesus the Light, John the Apostle also testified that Christ is the Light of mankind: *“<sup>4</sup>In Him was life, and the life was **the Light of mankind**”* (John 1:4). Amen.

### **So, What’s That Mean to Us?**

It means that without Christ the Light, the world is in the darkness. Without Christ, it is lost. Without Him, we are blind. Without Him, we don’t know where we are going. Without Him in us, without the guiding light in our heart, we will stumble and sin.

Jesus says, “... if anyone walks during the night, he stumbles, because the **light is not in him**” (John 11:10). Attention: the light is not **in him**. Isn’t it enough to have the natural light outside? Why, then, do we need the light in us? That light in us is Christ in us. “but if we walk in the **Light** as He Himself is in the **Light**, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin” (1 John 1:7).

### **We Are Called to Be the Children of Light.**

Christ the Light has called us out of darkness into His marvelous light. “But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God’s own possession, so that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous **light;**” (1 Peter 2:9).

Since God rescued us from the domain of **darkness**, and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son, we are not of night nor of darkness (1 Thessalonians 5:5). We are all sons of light and daughters of day. We are no longer part of any darkness, either here on earth, or in the life after. We ought not to participate “in the useless deeds of **darkness**, but instead even expose them;” (Ephesians 5:11). We need to walk as children of light (Ephesians 5:8). We ought to present ourselves in this crooked and perverse generation as “blameless and innocent, children of God above reproach” (Philippians 2:15). God wants us to prove ourselves in this world to be His children (Matthew 5:45). We are the ‘little’ lights in the world.

### **We Are Called to Bring the Light of Gospel to the World.**

The Lord sends us out to the world with one mission: bring Christ the Light to the world. Carry the Light of the gospel to the world. He has appointed us to “bring salvation to the end of the earth” (Acts 13:47). He is sending us to open people’s eyes “... so that they may turn from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who have been sanctified by faith in Jesus’ (Acts 26:18-19).

Let’s be aware that we are not sent into a playground. Rather, we are going into a spiritual battlefield where we fight against the darkness: “For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this **darkness**, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places” (Ephesians 6:12). Therefore, let’s rid ourselves of the deeds of darkness and put on the armor of **light** (Romans 13:12).

## Conclusion

Christ is the Light of the world. He is the very source of light and life. He gives Light to the world. He gives Life to the world. As nothing survives without the natural light, without Christ the Light, no one will have 'zoe' life---the life God wants us to have. The life with meaningful relationship with God and with each other.

Christ sends us into the world as the lights. <sup>14</sup>“*You are the light of the world...*” <sup>16</sup>*Your light must shine before people in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven*” (Matthew 5:14, 16).

Carry the torch of light to your home, your work, and your community. Brighten the corner where you are. Sow the light into the heart of everyone you meet: “*Light is sown like seed for the righteous, And gladness for the upright in heart*” (Psalm 97:11). Then, Christ will shine His light in their hearts, and they will start walking in the light (2 Corinthians 4:6). They will enjoy the fruit of the light such as goodness, righteousness, and truth: “<sup>8</sup>*for you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord; walk as children of light*<sup>9</sup> (for **the fruit of the light consists in all goodness, righteousness, and truth**),” (Ephesians 5:8-9).

People need the Lord! The world needs Christ the Light! Bring Christ to the world. Share the Light with them. Amen.