

“Who is Jesus?”: Light of the World – Part 1
John 8:12-30

Introduction:

- CONTEXT
 - Because of 7:53-8:11 being added later, this flows out of 7:52

The Task of the Light of the World (v.12)

- A) Self-revelation of God
 - a. Already “the logos” – speech
 - b. Living Water (Feast of Booths water ceremony)
 - c. Now, “the light” – Yahweh in action (Conzelmann) – Celebration of lights (Mishnah claims that 4 large lamps were lit in the court of the women and great song burst forth with joy)
 - d. **Psalm 27:1**, “*The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?*”
 - e. All of this points to the fact that JESUS IS FULLY SATISFYING (TRUSTWORTHY)
 - f. Chapter 9 will bear testimony to Christ’s self-claim
- B) To the World
 - a. Common in John
 - b. NOT Universalism
 - c. Only Salvation for Jew and Gentile alike
- C) For Salvation
 - a. Escape darkness
 - i. Conduct / Behavior
 - ii. 1 John 2:7-11
 - b. Have light of life
 - i. **Eph.5:8-10**, “*8 for at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light 9 (for the fruit of*

light is found in all that is good and right and true), 10 and try to discern what is pleasing to the Lord.”

- ii. **1 John 1:5**, “*This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all.*”

- D) **APPLICATION:** It is established here that those who follow the Light (Jesus) will not walk in darkness. Here at the start, you must decide what you believe by the evidence in your life.

The Testimony of the Light of the World (vv.13-18)

- A) Legal challenge (**vv.13-14**)
 - a. John 5:22-30
 - b. John 5:36-37
- B) Judging According to the Flesh (**vv.14-16**)
 - a. Jesus’ argument is rooted in His identity as God
 - b. They were using human / fleshly standards to judge him
 - c. He judges no one (in they way that they do...consistent also with the timing of his administration
 - i. **John 7:24**, “*Do not judge by appearances, but judge with right judgment.*”
 - ii. **John 5:27-28**, “*27 And he has given him authority to execute judgment, because he is the Son of Man. 28 Do not marvel at this, for an hour is coming when all who are in the tombs will hear his voice*”
 - iii. **John 9:39**, “*Jesus said, “For judgment I came into this world, that those who do not see may see, and those who see may become blind.”*

- iv. **John 3:17-18**, *“17 For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. 18 Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God.”*
- v. **2 Cor.5:16**, *“From now on, therefore, we regard no one according to the flesh. Even though we once regarded Christ according to the flesh, we regard him thus no longer.”*
- vi. **2 Timothy 4:1**, *“I charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by his appearing and his kingdom...”*

C) The Testimony of God (**vv.17-18**)

- a. Another “I Am” statement
- b. Being God, He is qualified to do as the Father does...they are one

D) **APPLICATION:** Do you think about Christ from a fleshly (earthly) point of view or a spiritual one? Is he, to you, merely a good teacher / a historical figure or is He God the son?

The Truth of the Light of the World (vv.19-30)

A) Jesus is Deity (**vv.19-20**)

- a. The Connection
 - i. The Treasury (next to court of women – lighting ceremony)
 - ii. If you get Jesus wrong, you get God wrong (distinction and why we can’t appeal to theological unity with Muslims or Mormons or JW’s)
- b. The Father

c. Sovereign over men’s actions

B) Jesus will Die on the Cross (**vv.21-24**)

- a. Only Provision that can cover sin
 - i. “Sin” singular (disbelief)
 - ii. “Sins” plural (actions) that represents disbelief and will die in those actions
- b. Provision for those who believe
 - i. People are not God
 - ii. Jesus is God
 - iii. People are fleshly.
 - iv. Jesus is Spirit.
 - v. Belief (**v.24**)
 1. He is “I AM” (**Isa.43:10-11**, *“10 “You are my witnesses,” declares the Lord,” and my servant whom I have chosen, that you may know and believe me and understand that I am he. Before me no god was formed, nor shall there be any after me.11 I, I am the Lord, and besides me there is no savior.”*
 2. Repent of disbelief
 3. Relieved of the penalty of sin
 4. “Light of life” – will NOT die in sins

C) Jesus is Who he says He is (**vv.25-29**)

- a. Right question (our series)
- b. Consistent testimony
- c. He will judge
- d. He will proclaim
- e. He and Father are One
- f. The Cross Identifies
 - i. Jesus doesn’t make sense apart from the cross
 - ii. Authority in death (path to return to the Father)

- iii. Authority in resurrection
- iv. **Phil.2:9-11**, *“9 Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, 10 so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, 11 and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.”*

g. The Pleasure of the Father

- i. Peace
- ii. **Psalms 37:4**, *“Delight yourself in the Lord, and he will give you the desires of your heart.”*

D) Some will believe (**v.30**)

- a. Will it be legitimate? (walk in light as He is?)
- b. Will it be spurious? (like **John 2:23-25** basing it on his signs)
- c. His volatile message makes it harder to follow casually

E) **APPLICATION:** Do you believe in Christ as He is revealed in scripture?