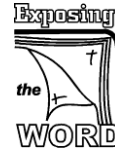




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17- I Am the Light of the World

8:12-19

In our text of John we come to I Am number two of Jesus. The first was I am the bread of life and now I am the Light of the World.

Joh 8:12 Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.

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

There was a prophecy in *Is 9:2* that said, "*The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light: they that dwell in the land of the shadow of death, upon them hath the light shined.*" This was fulfilled in *Matt 4:16* "*The people which sat in darkness saw great light; and to them which sat in the region and shadow of death light is sprung up.*"

We hear a lot about light today. The out of body experiences are often associated with light and in fact a book concerning them is called *Embraced by the Light*. However light is not a symbol of some mystical experience but of our God. Apart from Him there is no light.

I- Shedding Light on Light:

In *Gen 1:35* we see God created light. "*And God said, Let there be light: and there was light. And God saw the light that it was good: and God divided the light from the darkness, and God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And the evening and the morning were the first day.*"

Light became a picture of God and His presence and protection. *Ex 14:19-20* "*And the angel of God, which went before the camp of Israel, removed and went behind*

them; and the pillar of the cloud went from before their face, and stood behind them: And it came between the camp of the Egyptians and the camp of Israel; and it was a cloud and darkness to them, but it gave light by night to these: so that the one came not near the other all the night." Egypt is a picture of the world that lies in darkness and Israel a picture of the saved. Notice the dividing line from light to dark is God.

We find in the book of Daniel that God is the one who holds the keys to the darkness of knowledge. Daniel has just received the answer to the vision of Nebuchanezzar that will save his life. *Dan 2:20-22* "*Daniel answered and said, Blessed be the name of God for ever and ever: for wisdom and might are his: And he changeth the times and the seasons: he removeth kings, and setteth up kings: he giveth wisdom unto the wise, and knowledge to them that know understanding: He revealeth the deep and secret things: he knoweth what is in the darkness, and the light dwelleth with him.*"

II- Because He is Light of World:

What are the implications of Jesus being the Light of the World?

1- There is a Light to guide our paths:

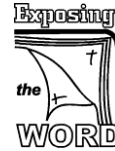
Jer 18:15 "*Because my people hath forgotten me, they have burned incense to vanity, and they have caused them to stumble in their ways from the ancient paths, to walk in paths, in a way not cast up*" The implication is that if we do not walk in the paths He illuminates we stumble and in the way we go.



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2- We cannot hide our sin- nor do we need to:

Ps 139:1,11-12" O LORD, thou hast searched me, and known me lf I say, Surely the darkness shall cover me; even the night shall be light about me. Yea, the darkness hideth not from thee; but the night shineth as the day: the darkness and the light are both alike to thee."

God did not call out to Adam and Eve to find them but so that they could find themselves alienated from God by sin. God knows we are sinners, and all about our sin.

We do not need to hide our sins now because the sin bearer is now Jesus. We will discuss this further in a moment.

3- There is A Call to Arms:

Notice the following scriptures with me if you would.

Rom 13:12-14 "The night is far spent, the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armour of light. Let us walk honestly, as in the day; not in rioting and drunkenness, not in chambering and wantonness, not in strife and envying. But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfil the lusts thereof. "

Eph 5:8 "For ye were sometimes darkness, but now are ye light in the Lord: walk as children of light"

1 Thes 5:5-6 "Ye are all the children of light, and the children of the day: we are not of the night, nor of darkness. Therefore let us not sleep, as do others; but let us watch and be sober. "

4- There is A Call to Fellowship:

1 John 1:5-7 "This then is the message which we have heard of him, and declare unto you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all. If we say that we have

fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth: But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin."

1 John 2:9 "He that saith he is in the light, and hateth his brother, is in darkness even until now."

5- There is A Call Reflection:

We have long heard that the moon does not produce light it only reflects the light of the sun. Might I say that we are incapable of producing light within our self but are simply reflecting the light of Christ.

Matt 5:14-16 "Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid. 15 Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house. 16 Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven."

III- Why will the world not run to the light?

Notice the reaction of the Pharisees as they hear Jesus claim to be the light of the world.

John 8:13 The Pharisees therefore said unto him, Thou bearest record of thyself; thy record is not true.

They accuse Him of being, if not untruthful and not trustworthy, at least not relevant because He is testifying of himself.

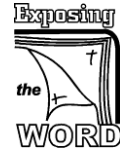
Jesus answers them in *John 8:14 Jesus answered and said unto them, Though I bear record of myself, yet my record is true: for I know whence I came, and whither I go; but ye cannot tell whence I come, and whither I go. 15 Ye judge after the flesh; I judge no man. 16 And yet if I judge, my*



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judgment is true: for I am not alone, but I and the Father that sent me. 17 It is also written in your law, that the testimony of two men is true. 18 I am one that bear witness of myself, and the Father that sent me beareth witness of me.

Then they wanted to be shown the Father. *John 8:19a Then said they unto him, Where is thy Father?*

Jesus tells them that they would have known Him if they knew the Father. *John 8:19b Jesus answered, Ye neither know me, nor my Father: if ye had known me, ye should have known my Father also.*

So this brings a great question to the surface. Why will the world not run to the light?

Because light brings condemnation. *John 3:19-20 "And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reproved."*

The deeds of the world are sinful and evil. Man is in denial that he is a sinner. It is

impossible for him to see his true condition unless revealed to him by the Spirit of God. *1 Cor 2:14 "But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned."*

Is there hope? Yes! Yes! and a thousand times yes! Notice with me the word of God in *Isaiah 60:1-3 "Arise, shine; for thy light is come, and the glory of the LORD is risen upon thee. For, behold, the darkness shall cover the earth, and gross darkness the people: but the LORD shall arise upon thee, and his glory shall be seen upon thee. And the Gentiles shall come to thy light, and kings to the brightness of thy rising."*

Remember Jesus said, *"I am the light of the world; he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life."*

Are you saved? Has He become the light of your life? Are you walking in the light in fellowship? Are you reflecting as you should?