

Gunston Bible Church
Pastor Dave

I AM THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD

Good morning Gunston, we are continuing to explore the “I Am” statements of Jesus in Book of John. This morning I’d like to share with you the second part of this looking at **I am the Light of the World!**

Saints just think about it; without sunlight, life on this planet would quickly cease to exist. No plants would grow the temperature would rapidly drop and in just a short time we would all be dead.

As vital as sunlight is to our physical existence, there is a light that is even more vital to our spiritual existence.

It is the light that John describes in **John 1:9** as **"The true light that gives light to every man..."** This vital life-giving and sustaining light is Jesus.

In our text today we find Jesus speaking to the people & the religious establishment of His day.

John 8:12, “When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, ‘I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.’”

Jesus spoke not only of being a light to Jerusalem but also being a light to the world.

Another way of looking at this is to see that those who join Jesus as one of his followers will not be ignorant of spiritual matters but will be given the power of understanding called (Discernment).

What was Jesus communicating to us in this proclamation that He is the light of the world?

The answers come when we recall what light does.

What Does Light Do?

1. Light scatters **darkness**.

Literally, we know that at a flick of a switch, a light bulb can dispel darkness.

Now, how many charismatics does it take to change a light bulb? One, since his/her hands are in the air anyway.

How many Calvinists does it take to change a lightbulb? None. God has predestined when the lights will be on.

How many Pentecostals does it take to change a light bulb? 10, one to change it and 9 others to pray against the spirit of darkness.

How many Amish does it take to change a lightbulb? What's a light bulb?

How many liberals does it take to change a light bulb?

At least ten, as they need to hold a debate on whether or not the light bulb exists. Even if they can agree upon the existence of the light bulb, they still may not change it to keep from alienating those who might use other forms of light.

How many Baptists does it take to change a light bulb? At least 15. One to change the light bulb, and three committees to approve the change.

If you have ever been in a room or a cave or cavern totally devoid of light, you know how frightening darkness can be.

Complete darkness is paralyzing, and you wouldn't even dare move.

Darkness paralyzes you.

In Scripture, darkness is often a metaphor for sin, death, sin's consequence, and everything that is not of God.

Conversely, light is often a metaphor for **redemption, spiritual awakening, goodness, peace**, and all that is of **God**.

John 3:19-21 *“This is the verdict: Light has come into the world, but men loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil. Everyone who does evil hates the light, and will not come into the light for fear that his deeds will be exposed. But whoever lives by the truth comes into the light, so that it may be seen plainly that what he has done has been done through God.”*

When baby Jesus was presented to the temple by his parents and Simeon saw him, this was his great cry (**Luke 2:29-32**) *“Sovereign Lord, as you have promised, you may now dismiss your servant in peace. ³⁰ for my eyes have seen your salvation, ³¹ which you have prepared in the sight of all nations: ³² a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and the glory of your people Israel.”*

2. Light gives warmth.

Did you know that one small candle, properly reflected, can raise the temperature of an igloo from below freezing to over 20 degrees Fahrenheit? That’s just amazing how heat from a single candle can give comfort to anyone. But even the heat from a light bulb can give warmth, maybe not so much to us, but to little chicks.

Light gives warmth. In the Bible warmth is often equated with the comfort that God provides to the grieving, the rejected, and the oppressed.

In **Isaiah 60:19-20**, God says, *“The sun will no more be your light by day, nor will the brightness of the moon shine on you, for the LORD will be your everlasting light, and your God will be your glory. Your sun will never set again, and your moon will wane no more; the LORD*

will be your everlasting light, and your days of sorrow will end.”

So, the light that God gives is far warmer than the warmth of the sun. Because it is not skin deep. It penetrates your being.

And when it does, it lifts you up and strengthens your inner being.

Psalm 84:11, ***“For the Lord God is a sun and shield; the Lord bestows favor and honor. No good thing does he withhold from those who walk uprightly.”***

3. Light helps us **find our way.**

How would we get anywhere without lighted signs, neon arrows, and traffic lights pointing the way? The psalmist declares in **Psalm 119:105** that ***God’s Word is a lamp for our feet and light for our path.***

In **John 12:35** Jesus says: ***“You are going to have the light just a little while longer. Walk while you have the light, before darkness overtakes you. Whoever walks in the dark does not know where they are going.”***

You see, Jesus as the light helps us to find our way. He knows we are in darkness. We are lost. We cannot find our way. We don’t know where to turn. But Jesus loves us and he doesn’t want us to be in a lost state forever. He sees us and knows what’s going on and so he comes to light our way.

That tells us that we don’t find God, He finds us. We don’t seek for heaven, Jesus seeks us. Without the light of the Gospel, and of the Gospel’s author, you will not know where you’ve been, where you’re going, or how you might get there. We are like the character Christian in the opening paragraphs of John Bunyan’s allegory *The Pilgrim’s Progress*: men and women clothed in

rags, with the great burden of sin and guilt upon our backs. It isn't until Evangelist points out the light of yonder wicket gate that we can see things aright.

Jesus is the way—to the Father, always to the Father. He gives direction. He helps you find your way.

Those are the things that Jesus do for us. He scatters our darkness, he gives us comfort, he provides healing and helps us find our way.

Now, Jesus wants you to follow him, to make him your light forever. And when you do two things happen. Again, [John 8:12](#) says, ***“I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.”***

But first, how do you become a follower? It is by believing he died for your sins. Many people are lost because of their sins. Many are going to hell because of their sins. The Bible says in [Romans 3:23](#), ***“For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God”***.

Sin is anything you do that does not please God. Murder is sin and does not please God but even a sin as small as lying does not please God either. And even just the thought of hating somebody is sin. So, sin is serious and separates us from a holy God.

[Romans 5:8](#) says, ***“But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”***

And in [John 3:16](#), ***“For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.”***

To follow Jesus, you need to admit you're a sinner. You've been going the wrong path and now Jesus finds you and he wants you to follow his light. Ask for his forgiveness and he will save you from your sins and death. You will be with him in heaven forever.

So, now, what happens when you become a follower of Christ?

You shall become a light yourself.

Jesus says in [Matthew 5:14-16](#), ***“You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. ¹⁵ Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. ¹⁶ In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.”***

That’s what it is all about: giving glory to **God** and living in such a manner that others will give glory to God. There is a difference between Jesus’ light and our light.

If we are saved we are lights in the world, but Jesus is the light of the world. If we are believers we are light, but we are reflective light. He is the source of light. We are just reflecting the light of Jesus.

Are you feeling downtrodden or discouraged today, overcome by the worries of the world?

If so please listen to [Philippians 4:4-7, 19](#)

[Philippians 4:4-7, 19](#) (ESV)

⁴ “Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice. ⁵ Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand; ⁶ do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷ And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.”

¹⁹ “And my God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus.”

A missionary in China once asked a native if he had ever heard the Gospel. “No,” he replied, “but I have seen it.”

I know a man who was the terror of the whole district. He was at times as fierce as a wild animal, and was also an opium smoker. When he accepted the Jesus' religion, he became quite changed. Now he is meek, and is no longer wicked, and has given up opium smoking.

I can see by that, that the Gospel and the service for Jesus are good."

Folks, that's being a light in this dark world. Are we letting our light shine before others? Are we reflecting the light of Jesus? Or are we hiding it? We're not so sure about whether to let others know we're Christians?

St. Francis of Assisi once said, "Share the gospel. If necessary, use words."

Let us Pray.....