

# THE LIGHT OF LIFE

John 8:12

Introduction:

## 1. An Astounding Claim – I AM the light of the world (John 8:12a)

### A) Jesus is claiming to be God

- > The “I AM” statements in John

The significance of this claim revealed later in this chapter (John 8:58-59)

- > The Old Testament had a rich history of connecting God to light (Ps 27:1; Isa 60:19)

### B) Jesus is claiming to be the fulfillment of the memorial celebration – God present

- > The background for the Feast and its celebration

The pillar of fire in Israel’s history (Exodus 13:20-22)

God leading His people

God protecting His people (Exodus 14:19-20)

- > Jesus claims to be even more than these memorial lights

He is the “light of the **world**”

The prophetic words of Isaiah the prophet (Isa 60:1-3)

### C) He is the Messiah

- > A “Servant Song”– strong Messianic overtones (Isaiah 42:6-8)

More familiar with the Servant Song found in Isaiah 53

- > The impact of the Messiah’s presence and reign (Zech 14:6-7)

## 2. A Wonderful Promise

### A) The Condition for the promise - He who follows Me (John 8:12b)

- > Word study for “follow” – to follow or go after; a disciple

> Word picture – Israel following the cloud by day / pillar of fire by night to the Promised Land

**NOTE:** It isn't enough to believe that Jesus is the Light of the World. He calls us to follow after Him ... to be His disciple

**ILLUSTRATE:** the conversion of Paul (Acts 26:12-20)

## B) The Consequences of the promise

> Those who follow Jesus shall not walk in darkness (John 8:12c)

What is darkness? (John 3:16-21)

What does it mean, "shall not walk in darkness" (Eph 5:8-12)

> Those who follow Jesus shall have the light of life (John 8:12d)

Just as Jesus is the "Bread of Life" that gives and sustains life

So Jesus is the "Light of Life" that gives light and life (John 1:1-4)

Light and life that is a new creation in Christ Jesus (Ps 36:7-9)

Light and life that comprise the abundant life in Christ Jesus (Prov 4:18-19)

## APPLICATION

The Pharisees response to Jesus during this religious holiday is not surprising ... but very alarming

They continue in their refusal to believe what Jesus is saying

Why? Men love darkness rather than light because their deeds are evil (John 3:18-20)

Jer 13:15-16 - Hear and give ear: do not be proud, for the LORD has spoken. Give glory to the LORD your God before He causes darkness, and before your feet stumble on the dark mountains, and while you are looking for light, He turns it into the shadow of death and makes it dense darkness.

We are in a season in which we celebrate a religious holiday – the birth of Jesus Christ

Don't miss the significance of the holiday – a holy day

God sent His own Son into a world of darkness

Not so that we could celebrate / remember stables, shepherds, wise men, etc

But to reveal the darkness – man's sinfulness / sinful rebellion against God / judgment

To show the way to the Father (John 14:6)

To reveal His love for you and for me (John 3:16-17)

In this season of lights I call you to look upon Jesus, the Light of the world.