

The Light of the World Exposes the Darkness

John 8:12-59

January 22, 2023

1. Jesus Exposes Our Unbelief (12-20).
 - a. Jesus pursues His accusers (12).
 - i. Jesus introduces Himself as the Light of the World (12a).
 1. As the Light of the World, Jesus is revealing His mission as the One sent from God to bring the world from darkness (alienation from God) into light (relationship with God).
 2. John 1:4-5 "In him was life; and the life was the light of men. And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not."
 - ii. Jesus exposes those who do not follow Him as being in darkness (12b).
 1. Those that follow Jesus do not walk in darkness, which implies that those who do not follow Him live in darkness (alienation from God).
 2. Those that follow Jesus have the light of life, which implies that those who do not follow Jesus do not have life (cf. John 3:16-20).
 - b. Jesus' accusers expose their alienation from God (13-20).
 - i. Light is self-evident; only the blind cannot see it; by opposing Jesus' statement, they are revealing that they are still in darkness, alienated from God (13).
 1. The Pharisees reject Jesus' claim to be the Light of the world on the grounds that Jesus is witnessing of Himself (cf. Deuteronomy 17:2-13).
 2. This response ignores the witness of John the Baptist, Jesus' many miracles, the Father's witness as Jesus' baptism, the Scriptures, and Moses (cf. John 5:31-47).
 - ii. In rejecting Jesus, they reveal that they also do not know God (19-20).
2. Jesus Exposes Our Depravity (21-30).
 - a. Jesus exposes the depths of man's depravity (21-22).
 - i. Those who reject Christ will die in their sin (cf. 3:16-19; cf. Revelation 21:8).
 - ii. Those who reject Christ are unable to enter heaven.
 - b. Jesus exposes man's origin (23-24).
 - i. Jesus is from heaven in all its glory and perfection.
 - ii. We are of this world in all of its darkness and corruption.
 - iii. The only escape from the judgment that awaits the world is faith in Christ (24).
 - c. Jesus exposes man's alienation from God (25-30).
 - i. Those who reject Christ do not know God as their Father (25-27).
 - ii. Those who reject Christ are judged by the cross of Christ (28-29).
 - iii. Those who believe in Christ are saved by the cross of Christ (30).
3. Jesus Reveals the Nature of His True Followers (31-47).
 - a. Those who have believed in Jesus have a new relationship with the Word – abiding (31-32).
 - i. "Remain" comes from the Greek word "meno" meaning dwell or abide (cf. 15:1-5).
 - ii. Once we believe in Jesus, the living Word, abides in us, and we abide in Him!
 - iii. Before faith in Christ, the Word condemned us; After faith in Christ, the Word frees us (32).
 - iv. Before faith in Christ, the Word exposed us; after faith in Christ the Word becomes a means of grace and enablement (cf. 1:14).
 - b. Those who have not believed in Christ remain slaves to sin (33-37).
 - i. Unbelievers are unaware of their slavery to sin (33).
 - ii. Unbelievers find their security apart from Christ, such as religion, heritage, perceived goodness.
 - iii. Jesus points out that our sin is what enslaves us (34).
 - iv. Slaves do not have a family relationship with the Father; Sons have an eternal relationship with the Father (35).
 - v. Jesus is the one who turns slaves into sons (36).
 - vi. Slaves become sons by belief in Jesus' Word (37a; cf. Romans 10:17)

- vii. Slaves remain slaves through their rejection of the claims of Jesus Christ (37b).
- c. Those who have not believed in Christ are not the sons of God (38-47).
 - i. The father of the unbeliever is not the Father of Jesus (38).
 - ii. The Jews had a physical relationship with Abraham, but they did not share the faith of Abraham (39; cf. Romans 4:1-5).
 - iii. Abraham believed and obeyed the word of God; the Jews heard and rejected the Word of the Son of God (40).
 - iv. Jesus makes it clear that those who do not believe His message do not have a relationship with God (41-42).
 - v. Their refusal to believe Jesus' Word reveals that they are slaves to their father the devil (43-47).
- d. Those who refuse to believe that Jesus is God are the enemies of God (48-59).

Conclusion:

1. Has Jesus exposed your unbelief this morning? Are you willing to accept that Jesus is the only way to know God?
2. Has Jesus exposed your depravity this morning? Are you willing to admit that you are unable to reach God apart from Christ?
3. What is your relationship to the Word of God? Does it condemn you, or does it form the foundation of your faith?
4. Are you still a slave to sin, or have you been set free from the bondage and penalty of your sin?