

I AM THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD

THE I AM'S OF JESUS #3

This morning we continue with our study in the “I AM’s of Jesus” by looking at another statement of Deity that occurred in John 8. Later on in this chapter, as we have already seen, Jesus will claim – “Before Abraham was, I AM”. Prior to that statement, Jesus will make another “I AM” proclamation – “I AM the Light of the World”. With what Jesus is proclaiming in this statement, there can be no mistake about His claims of Deity. We begin today with:

1. **I AM the Light of the World – John 8:12** -. This statement occurs after the account with the woman taken in adultery. It is then that Jesus makes this unmistakable claim. Jesus claims to be the Light of the World as well as stating that anyone who follows Him will not walk in darkness but will have the light of life. Basically Jesus is claiming that belief in Him will give a person the necessary spiritual light needed not only for eternal life but also for navigating in this life as well. Notice a few points about this statement:

- **Jesus is “the” not “a” Light.** Most people are ok with Jesus being “a” light to the world just not “the” Light to the world. Jesus is claiming to be the only source of spiritual light to the world. In other-words, no other light exists anywhere else. The biggest problem that the world has with Biblical Christianity is the claim that Jesus is “the” only way, not one of many ways. Without Christ, no spiritual light exists that would make one wise in the true things of God.
- **Walking in darkness.** Jesus stated that whoever follows Him, would not “walk in darkness”. The implication here is that for the one not following Him (in salvation) he is walking in darkness. You can be the best religious person on earth and still be found walking in spiritual darkness without Christ. In order to get out of spiritual darkness, one must trust Christ as Lord and Savior.
- **The Light of Life.** Jesus also claims that the one who walks in Him will “have the Light of Life”. This means that truly born again believers currently and permanently possess the necessary spiritual light to know God, have eternal life and properly navigate this life. The only way to properly navigate this life is do it with God and to do it according to the Word of God. Multitudes make many grievous errors in this life because they choose to do things contrary to the Word of God. Necessary light for this life cannot be had apart from Jesus Christ.

2. **The Pharisees take offense – vs. 13-18.** In the upcoming verses, the Pharisees clearly do not agree with Jesus' statement. They will challenge Him about the truthfulness of His statement according to Jewish Law. Jesus will reveal that He knows some things that they don't and that His statement is supported by Jewish Law – vs. 13-18 -.
3. **Jesus begins revealing the lost condition of these religious leaders – vs. 19-22 -.** These Pharisees asked Jesus in verse 19 – “Where is your Father”? Jesus reveals to them that they do not know His Father. These religious leaders certainly would have scoffed at that notion. But the words of Jesus were true; they didn't know His Father. Most religious people claim to know God and sadly do not. The same criteria that Jesus used with them are true of multitudes today – knowing the true Jesus. Every lost religious person has a skewed opinion of Jesus. Since they don't know the true Jesus, they do not know the Father.
4. **The necessity of believing in the Deity of Christ – vs. 23-24 -.** Jesus makes it very clear that eternal life (salvation) is dependent upon one believing in the Deity of Christ – “for if ye believe not that I AM he, ye shall die in your sins”. A person must not only repent and believe in order to be saved; one must believe in the Biblical Jesus, and that Jesus is God. That is one reason why JW's, Mormons, Muslims, Hindus, Buddhists and other religions that do not recognize the Deity of Christ cannot be saved.
5. **The proof of the Deity of Christ – vs. 25-30 -.** Claiming to be God and proving it are two different things. In the upcoming verses, Jesus will again tie Himself inextricably to the Father. He will then offer future evidence of His Deity. Jesus will speak His upcoming crucifixion and subsequent resurrection as proof of His Deity. During this dialogue, we will once again see Jesus using the name I AM – vs. 25-30 -.