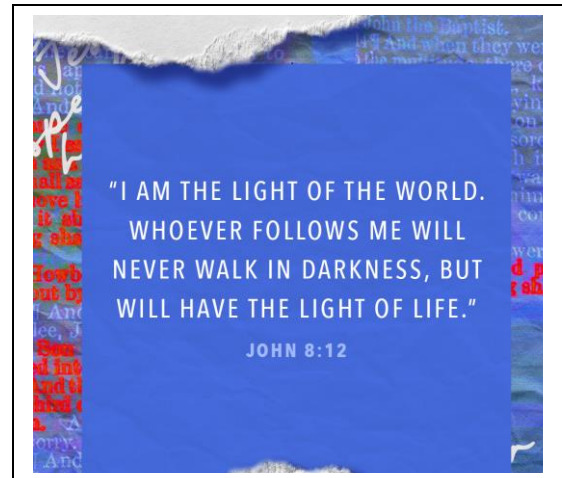


Sunday 13th August 2023

I Am The Light Of The World

**Scripture: John 8:12, 9:1-7 and
12:35-36**

Jesus spoke this I AM statement,
while He was in the part of the
Temple where the offerings were



put and where candles burned to symbolize the pillar of fire that led the people of Israel through the wilderness and of God's protection and guidance. Jesus was saying that He brings God's presence, protection, and guidance as the light of the world.

Are you ever stunned by today's technology and how fast it is progressing. Soon we will be like the Jetsons, and our cars will fly in the air! We can start to take technology for granted. Consider the electric light. I wonder if anyone remembers a time before electric lighting. It is hard to imagine the huge difference our lifestyle would be without electricity. Of course, today we are more concerned with turning it off than on because of the costs.

Another light many take for granted today, is Jesus. The coming of that Light changed the world forever. And none of us can appreciate His impact on the world because none of us were here before Jesus.

Light brings sight and understanding.

The dictionary meaning for “light” is “something that makes vision possible.” Light makes it possible for us to see. Without light, we are blind – blind to our surroundings, our situations, our circumstances – even blind to ourselves. Light makes it possible for us to see clearly – things as they really are.

Did you know that an absence of sunlight causes blindness? Animals who live their lives in the complete absence of light are commonly blind, sometimes eyeless. Horses kept in dark stables and denied sunlight become blind. Those who are kept in cellars, prisons, and mines where there is no sunlight, can lose their sight.

Before Jesus, most of the world was spiritually blind, unable to see spiritual reality. The world had pushed God out of their life, thus became blind. Today, there are still so many who live their lives in darkness.

Light brings life and healing.

Without sunshine there would be no life. The sun provides the basis for all life on earth. It is the source of energy for all plants, animals, and people. Sunlight sustains our energy, bringing vitality to our red and white blood cells.

There is healing in sunlight too. It has been used to treat tuberculosis, strep infections, pneumonia, fungal infections and

more. Tiny flashes of infrared light can heal wounds, build muscles, turn back the worst effects of diabetes and repair blinded eyes.

People who live in parts of the world where the winter cold keeps them indoors often suffer from depression. Some people experience Seasonal Affective disorder and must spend time in “sunrooms” where the light mimics sunlight and picks up their spirits.

The light of Jesus’ love and compassion brings healing to emotional wounds and afflictions of the heart and mind. In Luke 4 Jesus declared that He had come to bring good news to the afflicted and bind up the brokenhearted.

Light removes stains and purifies.

Sunlight will remove stains from spotted garments – called “sun bleached.” It also purifies. In 1877, it was discovered that if you hung an item out in the sunlight – the ultraviolet rays of the Sun destroyed bacteria and germs on the surfaces. After exposure to sunlight, the ability of cells to eat and destroy invading foreign substances is greatly increased.

Just as the light of the sun removes physical stains, Jesus, the Light of the World removes the spiritual stain of sin from our souls. John 1:7 says: “the blood of Jesus cleanses us from all sin.”

Light brings hope and security.

Have you ever been afraid of the dark? The author, Stephen King, who some may know writes fictional horror stories, once talked about his daily writing routines. He was asked whether he ever wrote at night. He replied: “are you kidding? Not with the stuff I write.” Even Stephen King knows the power of darkness.

Life is filled with challenges and trials that often cause us to lose hope, but light dispels our fears and provides us with security. Just as a lighthouse guides the ships safely to shore, Jesus’ light guides us through tumultuous seas of life. His light illuminates our path, helping us navigate through trials, tribulations, and uncertainties.

Jesus’ light provides clarity where there is confusion, direction where there is aimlessness and hope where there is despair. When you have Jesus, the True light, in your life, you do not need to fear anything. He offers the best protection, provides true security and He builds an impenetrable wall of defense around us.

Jesus said that whoever follows Him will not walk in darkness but will have the light of life. This light brings life in its fullest sense – a life of joy, peace, purpose, and eternal significance. It is a light that conquers death and promises eternal life.

Are you walking in the Light today or are you still in darkness?

Unless you have believed in Jesus as your only Saviour.

Unless you have repented, decided to leave a life of sin and have chosen to dedicate the remainder of your life to please Him.

Unless you have verbally confessed your belief that Jesus is the Son of the Living God and

Unless you have been baptized – immersed in water – to wash away your sins – you are still living in darkness and have yet to know the full benefits of His light. You make the call.

As we wrap up, I offer you this benediction:

**May the Light of the World shine upon you,
guide you,**

and fill your life with His love and peace.

Go in the knowledge that you are loved,

you are seen,

and you are held in the hands of our Saviour.