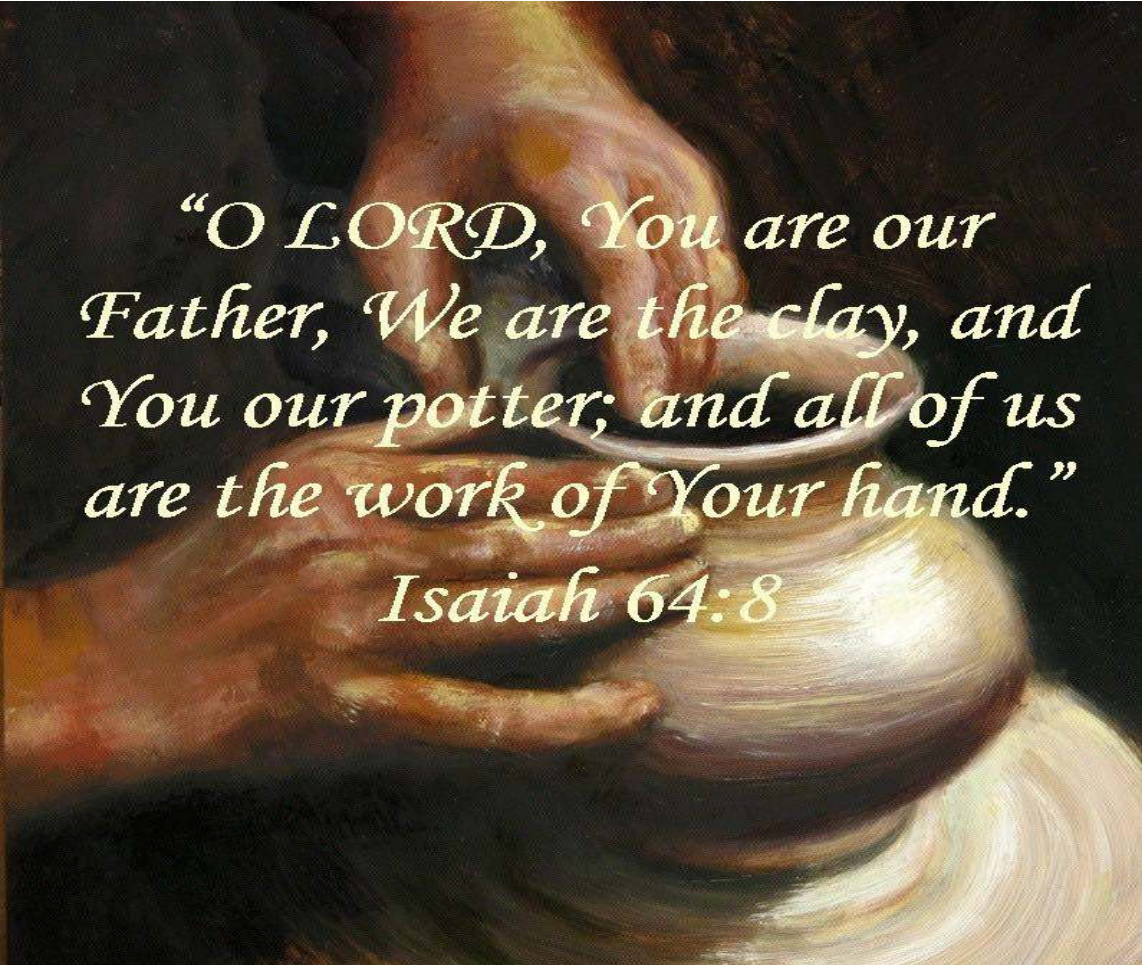


"Thy word is a lamp unto my feet,
and a light unto my path" (Psalm 119:105).

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FOR THE RECORD

Sunday Bible Study	23
Sunday AM Worship	36
Sunday PM Worship	22
Wed. Bible Study	17
Offering	\$1555



*"O LORD, You are our
Father, We are the clay, and
You our potter; and all of us
are the work of Your hand."
Isaiah 64:8*



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Minister:

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Times of Services:

Sunday

Bible Study:... 10:00am
AM Worship:...11:00am
PM Worship:...6:00pm
2nd Sunday:.....1:30pm

Wednesday

Bible Study:.....7:00pm

Radio Program

Sunday:.....7:30am
"Back to the Bible"
AM 580 WSKS
93.5 FM

**We Extend A
Warm & Cordial
Welcome
To All Our
Visitors!**

"I AM THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD!"

Tim Canup

The apostle John exclusively records the "I AM" claims of Jesus, such as, "I AM the light of the world..." (John 8:12). Light represents knowledge/understanding and it the opposite of Darkness. Darkness therefore, represents an ignorance or lack of knowledge of God and His will for us. Light is greater than darkness, it can dispel darkness; however, darkness cannot overcome light and they cannot co-exist! Jesus came to be a light in this world of Darkness (Matthew 4:16). Let us Jesus' claim to be the light of the world and see how it impacts us.

THE CLAIM:

The context of John 8 is the Religious Leaders of Jesus' day brought a woman that had been taken in adultery to Jesus for the purpose of trapping Him. After He had adequately answered them, verse 12 says, "Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life." The Pharisees responded in verse 13, "Thou bearest record of thyself; thy record is not true." This prompted a very tense discussion between Jesus and these Religious Leaders. The reason? They understood His claim to be the light of the world as a claim to be Messiah. Also, when Jesus said, "...he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life" implied they were in darkness!

Continued Inside

The next claim for our consideration is found in John 12, Jesus' last public discourse. In verses 35-36, Jesus discussed with them light and darkness and in verses 37-43, belief and unbelief. We read in verses 44-46 "Jesus cried and said, He that believeth on me, believeth not on me, but on him that sent me. ⁴⁵ And he that seeth me seeth him that sent me. ⁴⁶ I am come a light into the world, that whosoever believeth on me should not abide in darkness." In this claim, Jesus connect faith and obedience with being in the light.

In John 9 is the record of the man born blind. The disciples ask Jesus, "Master, who did sin, this man, or his parents, that he was born blind?" Jesus responded, "Neither hath this man sinned, nor his parents: but that the works of God should be made manifest in him." Then in verse 5, "As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world."

Now, let us make some applications. We know that light represents an understanding or a proper knowledge and that Jesus is the source of light. He did not merely claim it, but rather He demonstrated it! So, let me ask us to consider, is Jesus still in world today?

COMPREHENSION:

We find John's introduction of Jesus in John 1 as "the Word." He is referred to as such because it is words with which we communicate with one another. Jesus the that Word which declares God to man. In this prologue, John declares that Jesus is Eternal; Creator; Life (source of it). John recorded in verses. 4-5 "In him was life; and the life was the light of men. ⁵ And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not."

Consider the phrase, "comprehended it not" for just a moment. What does the word comprehend mean? An internet dictionary defined it as, "to grasp mentally; understand." The Greek word that is used occurs some 15 times and is translated as, "take; apprehend; comprehend; perceive; come upon; overtake; find; attain; obtain." It is used in Philippians 3:12-13 and Acts 4:13. Jesus came into world and claimed to be Messiah, our Savior and the "world" (that is, mankind) did not grasp it; we did not understand and accept it! Having declared Jesus as light, John then provides evidence after evidence in rest of book to support that claim. However, mankind (for most part) would not accept it, even those who were eyewitnesses to Him and His signs.

CONDEMNATION:

In John 3, we have Jesus' Discussion with Nicodemus. In that discussion, Jesus revealed great spiritual truths to this Religious Leader, and then said to him:

And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up: ¹⁵ That whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life. ¹⁶ For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. ¹⁷ For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved. ¹⁸ He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is

condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. ¹⁹ And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. ²⁰ For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reprov'd. ²¹ But he that doeth truth cometh to the light, that his deeds may be made manifest, that they are wrought in God.

We use light to reveal what is hidden in darkness. God used His light to reveal darkness, that is sin. The fact is, mankind is in sin! The only way we can know such is if light reveals it. However, not everyone is willing to allow that light to shine on their lives. Why? Because "...Men love darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. ²⁰ For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reprov'd {exposed}" (vss. 19b-20). Why do most commit their crime under the cover of darkness?

Jesus came as the light and that light exposed the wickedness and sin of man, which is what has condemned us. Therefore, mankind does NOT like the light and runs from it. But the honest heart seeks light because he desires a fix for the problem of sin. When it comes to our sin on the Day of Judgment, we will not be able to hide it!

CONTINUATION:

To have salvation from sin, we must be willing to come to the light. In doing so, it is not a one-time thing; Christianity is a new way of life! Jesus said in John 12:46 "I am come a light into the world, that whosoever believeth on me should not abide in darkness." We must have faith to be saved, an obedient faith. But our faith is not a one-time thing either; we must have a faith that constantly moves to obey whatever it is Lord has commanded (cf. Lk 6:46; John 8:24). We read in John 8:31, "Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed." In John 8:12, Jesus said, "...I am the light of the world: he that followeth {literally, keeps on following-TAC} me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life." It is a life of following, wherever He leads, which involves going through the strait gate and down the narrow way, that which is difficult.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Aug 29 – Prayer Service after Evening Worship
- Sept 5 – Men's Business Meeting & Ladies' Bible Class after Evening Worship
- Sept 15-19 – Gospel Meeting with Eddy Craft (Thursday-Saturday @ Civic Center)
- Sept 19 – Preach-N-Eat & 1:30 Worship Service (Song Service)
- Please give support money for Chinese orphans to Minnie Kennell