

“The Light of the World”  
The Gospel of John Chapter 8:12-30

Some time apparently elapses between Jesus’ last words to the woman and this further discourse with the Pharisees. No further mention of the crowds is related in this chapter, so most of them that attended the Feast of Tabernacles have probably departed.

Jesus begins this further discussion with the second of the seven great “I AM’s” of this gospel (Jhn. 6:48, 8:12, 10:7, 11, 11:25, 14:6, 15:1). In perfect contrast to the darkness of the sexual immorality of the woman and the even greater darkness of the scribes and Pharisees is the true Light of the world, Jesus. This Light shining on the scribes and Pharisees caused them to flee like vermin. Jesus is the true Light (spiritually literally true) that lights every man coming into the world (Jhn. 1:9). Darkness is symbolic of evil and the evil one (Satan) which is opposed to the Light and those who follow Christ (Gen. 15:12; Ex. 10:21; Ps. 107:10-11; Prov. 4:19; Eccl. 2:14; Isa. 5:20, 9:1-2, 50:10; Matt. 8:12, 27:45; Lk. 2:32, 22:53; Jhn. 3:19; Acts 26:18; Rom. 13:12; 2Cor. 4:6, 6:14; Eph. 5:8, 11, 6:12; Col. 1:13; 1Thess. 5:4-5; 1Pet. 2:9; 1Jhn. 1:5-6, 2:9-11; Rev. 16:10-11).

The Pharisees dispute Jesus’ claim by quoting the Law, where a minimum of two or three witnesses were necessary to establish validity (Deut. 17:6). Jesus counters with the Father’s witness of Him (Matt. 3:17). They do not know the Father because they do not know Christ (Jhn. 14:6). Their witness was also false for they had not brought the man guilty of adultery and were misusing the Law to bring about their evil scheme to murder Christ! All the Scriptures also bore testimony of the Messiah (Isa. 9:1-2; Jhn. 5:39) as did His miracles, signs and wonders (Acts 2:22).

Jesus further explains that they will die in their sins (verse 21). The reason is their earthly, not heavenly, origin and their unbelief (verse 24). In fact, they are already condemned because they refuse to believe (Jhn. 3:18).

Lastly, when Jesus is lifted up (a reference to the cross, Jhn. 3:14), they will know that Jesus is the great “I AM.” The cross is inevitably followed by His burial and the resurrection. The grave could not contain Him (Acts 2:24-28). The resurrection was infallible proof that Christ was who He claimed to be (Acts 2:36). He is not left alone by the Father (Lk.

23:46). He **always** did the things that pleased His Father (verse 29; Matt. 3:17). By God's grace may we endeavor to do the same!