

JESUS-LIGHT OF THE WORLD & HEALER OF THE BLIND

TEXT

John 8:12 & 9:1-7

TEACHING

1. JESUS IS THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD (8:12a)

- One of His many “I am” statements (8:12, 9:5)
- He will light up the New Jerusalem (Rev 21:23, 22:16)

2. JESUS GUIDES YOUR WAY (8:12b)

- Spiritually – Forgiveness, salvation, freedom, hope
- Morally – Loving, healthy actions & attitudes
- Ethically – Truth, justice, fairness, empathy, mercy
- Physically – Healthy living & healing the sick/blind

3. JESUS GIVES YOU HIS LIGHT TO REFLECT/SHINE (8:12c)

- Your character/persona – do others see or sense it?
- Your words – do others hear you speak of Him?
- Your deeds – do you obey His teaching & do good works?

QUESTION

Have you recognized, received and reflected the light of Christ?

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John 8:12 & 9:1-7

CHILDRENS APPLICATION

God is really bright! When you ask Jesus into your heart his light shines INTO YOU and OUT OF YOU!

INTO ME – (My work torch) My really bright work torch shows me where to walk in dark houses and sheds and helps me read meter numbers correctly. It's the smallest tool I have but the most important! God's voice and the Bible will show you how to live your life and make good/safe decisions.

OUT OF ME – (Charlie the Cat) When Jesus lives in me people can sense it and see it! He makes me a nicer person to be around and other people notice. Some ask me why I'm different or if I'm a Christian. My big white cat Charlie likes to jump up on our garage wall at the sun's reflection on my watch. He's attracted to it and waits for me to shine it so he can play. People will like to hang out with you and know what you think because they see Jesus in you. Cool aye?

TEACHING

1. JESUS IS THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD (8:12a)

- One of His many "I am" statements (8:12, 9:5)

I am the Way, Truth, Life, Branch, Vine, Gate, Good Shepherd etc
He created the world with God His Father in the beginning and light was their first creation! The pillar of fire/light guided the Israelites out of Egypt and the prophet Isaiah predicted that Jesus would bring spiritual light through his ministry to the land of Galilee. "The people walking in darkness have seen a great light" (Ch 9:2). "Arise, shine for your light has come...Nations will come to your light, and Kings to the brightness of your dawn" (Ch 60:1-3). Even Christ's birth was signalled by a bright star! The apostle John sums this all up at the beginning of his first letter to the churches when he declares "God is light, in Him there is no darkness at all!" (1 John 1:5) Also John 3:19 "Men loved darkness...etc

- **He will light up the New Jerusalem (Rev 21:23, 22:16)**
At the end of this age, and the beginning of the next, God will make a new holy city for His followers to live in. There will be no sea, no sun or moon to light the city because “the Lamb/Jesus will be its lamp...and the bright Morning Star.” Wow!! How can we imagine how many ‘lumens’ of light He will put out?

2. JESUS GUIDES YOUR WAY (8:12b)

The Living Bible version of this statement says “so if you follow me, you won’t be stumbling through the darkness...” Also “Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path” (Psalm 119:105).

Many today reject Jesus’ light and are increasingly guided by the loudest minority voices whether activists, politicians, writers, bloggers, tweeters, face book posters etc. Yes and even some claiming to be Christians who ‘cut and paste’ so much of the Bible that there’s not much left!! We cannot rely/lean on our own limited understanding as Proverbs 3:5&6 state. When I think I’ve read a meter reading correctly in poor light it ‘comes back to bite me’ – so I’ve learned if in doubt always get my torch out. Life in this world will bite you, eventually, if you don’t shine the wisdom of God’s word on your decision making.

- **Spiritually – Forgiveness, salvation, freedom, hope**
God’s gifts = peace of mind in all circumstances. My grandad 2 wars!
- **Morally – Loving, healthy actions & attitudes**
Bible tells us what is good & bad for our bodies. Read it & live by it!
- **Ethically – Truth, justice, fairness, empathy, mercy**
How you conduct yourself with others in relationships, business, church etc. Character is how you treat those who have nothing to offer you?
- **Physically – Healthy living & healing the sick/blind**
Jesus defied the laws of our finite/frail human bodies during His earthly ministry by healing many who had diseases and disabilities and sickness. This was to prove who He was and God’s great plan to reconcile us back to Himself. The disciples and the Pharisees had no theological answer to the healing of the man born blind - as he was blind before he had a chance to sin! The wisdom, power and popularity of Jesus enraged the Pharisees and they tried to get the man and his parents to deny Jesus had done anything miraculous – and to expel them from the synagogue. The man’s physical healing & simple faith led later in chapter 9 to him receiving spiritual healing! He fell down and worshipped God!

3. JESUS GIVES YOU HIS LIGHT TO REFLECT/SHINE (8:12c)

- Your character/persona – do others see or sense it?

Evan Beckwith's transformation!

- Your words – do others hear you speak of Him?

Its not a virtue to be quiet about Jesus! "If you acknowledge Me before men then I will acknowledge you before my Father in heaven & the angels."

- Your deeds – do you obey His teaching & do good works?

We are now led by the Spirit, not our feelings and impulses. Tear Fund is called Compassion overseas. Compassion is Gods heart driving us to good works for others. eg Mercy Ships, Christians against poverty etc

QUESTION

Have you recognized, received and reflected the light of Christ?

CONCLUDING SONG

"Light of the world You stepped down into darkness..."