

Jesus the Light of the World

John 8:12-14 (NRSV)

¹² Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life." ¹³ Then the Pharisees said to him, "You are testifying on your own behalf; your testimony is not valid." ¹⁴ Jesus answered, "Even if I testify on my own behalf, my testimony is valid because I know where I have come from and where I am going, but you do not know where I come from or where I am going.

Giving honor to God, Jesus the Christ, and the Holy Spirit. Giving honor to the men, women, and children of God. To my fellow brothers and sisters in Christ. As we look at today's text; John 8:12-14 shares with us the truth and reality of Jesus being the light of the world. I'd like to tag this particular message "Jesus, the Light of the World."

Yesterday, my family and I took time to visit Carolina Premium Outlets in Smithfield, North Carolina. The visit was absolutely wonderful as we looked at the elaborate Christmas decorations of many different sorts and types. It seemed that the décor was vibrant with the many colors of the rainbow as we visited several of the specialty shops. As it started to get dark, I couldn't help but notice how beautiful the many lights and ornaments were as they lit up the atmosphere. The vibrant clarity of the lights allow visibility to extend for a great distance. As I reflected on the unique beauty of the lights, I stand this morning to remind you that Jesus is the Light of the World. Have you ever noticed that sometimes life situations may seem dark? Have you ever felt great one day, then the next day you were wondering where your joy went? Did you know that statistically many get depressed during the holiday season? Depression is not your friend. In fact, depression is your enemy. You see it can rob you of your joy and your peace. Depression can take one down the road that leads to fear, worry, and hopelessness.

I'm so glad this morning that troubles don't last always. My friends, in John 5:4-5, the word says: "For everyone who has been born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world – our faith. Who is it that overcomes the world except the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?" Hebrews 11:1 teaches that Faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. The bible also teaches us that faith cometh by hearing and hearing by the word of God. If you want to increase your faith, spend more time in the Word of God. You can choose not to be depressed? You can choose to take control of your life. Seek to find the Joy in the Lord rather than living one day "up" and one day "down." You see we've got to choose

to live by faith instead of by our circumstances. We can't allow our circumstances to dictate how we feel. 2 Corinthians says "We walk by faith and not by sight."

What are you saying preacher? Thank You, I'm so glad you asked. We can do all things through Christ who strengthens us (Phil. 4:13). It's time to fight back against depression, lack, and sickness. We've got so much to thank God for. Have you ever stopped just to count your blessings and give God the praise? No matter what the situation looks like, you ought to be able to find something (s) that you are thankful for. Thankfulness is the key to the darkness of depression. The scripture teaches us that Christ is the light of the world. It also teaches that you and I are also the light of the world because we are followers of Jesus Christ. In John 8:12 Jesus said again, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life."

I just came to remind you that whether you are a 60 watt, 80 watt, or 100 watt bulb; you 'aught to go and encourage somebody that may be thinking about giving up. You are the light of the world. Turn that fire on inside of you. Get in God's word. God may use you to witness to somebody in a dark place. You can let them know that troubles don't last always. You are the light of the world. You've got Jesus on the inside of you, Working on the outside. Say Yes! Hallelujah! God loves you. He knows what you're going through and he knows how to deliver you. He knows about our loved ones, friends, community, nation, this entire world. Even though it may be dark in the evening, Jesus is the light of the world. Because of God's Grace, you are the light of the world. Because of the Blood of Jesus, you are the light of the world. Because of the Divinity of the Holy Spirit, you are the light of the world. Can you say "Yes." Yes, O' Yes. If we be the light of the world, through the direction of Almighty God, we can reconcile others through Him because He has given us the ministry of reconciliation. (2 Corinthians 5:18)

Truly, Jesus is the reason for the season. Share the love of Christ today, by letting your light shine in this world. Now we can sing the song "Jesus, the Light of the World."

Jesus, the Light of the World! He has risen in our hearts, Jesus, the Light of the World!
Refrain: Walk in the Light, beautiful Light; Come where His love and His mercy are bright. Shine all around us by day and by night, Jesus, the Light of the World. Oh we shall walk in the light, beautiful light, come where the dewdrops of mercy shine bright. Oh shine all around us by day and by night, Jesus, the Light of the World.

Salvation is available to you today. John 5:4-5, says: "For everyone who has been born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world – our faith. Who is it that overcomes the world except the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?" Will you believe today and let your light shine?

Blessings and Favor.