



July 31, 2016
VBS One Service | 10:00 am
Pastor Matt Davis

Following Jesus, the Light of the World

Jesus invites us to follow Him

"Then Jesus again spoke to them, saying, "I am the Light of the world; he who follows Me will not walk in the darkness, but will have the Light of life." (John 8:12)

- **Monday: Jesus gives us hope**
Prophets foretell the light of the world. (John 1:1-34, Isaiah 9:2)
"O Lord, you alone are my hope." (Psalm 71:5)
- **Tuesday: Jesus gives us courage**
Jesus and Peter walk on water. (Matthew 14:22-36)
"Take courage. I am here!" (Matthew 14:27)
- **Wednesday: Jesus gives us direction**
Jesus sheds light on how to live. (Matthew 5-7)
"He will show you which path to take." (Proverbs 3:6)
- **Thursday: Jesus gives us love**
Jesus dies and comes back to life. (Luke 23:1-24:12)
"We know what real love is because Jesus gave up his life for us." (1 John 3:16)
- **Friday: Jesus gives us power**
Jesus ascends and empowers his followers. (Acts 1:1-11)
"Our great power is from God, not from ourselves." (2 Corinthians 4:7)

Jesus makes it known that He is the Light of the World

"Then Jesus again spoke to them, saying, "I am the Light of the world; he who follows Me will not walk in the darkness, but will have the Light of life." (John 8:12)

- **Jesus is saying that He is God**
"Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light." (Genesis 1:3)
"And there will no longer be any night; and they will not have need of the light of a lamp nor the light of the sun, because the Lord God will illumine them..." (Revelation 22:5)
- **Jesus is saying that following Him keeps us from darkness**
"So Jesus said to them, 'For a little while longer the Light is among you. Walk while you have the Light, so that darkness will not overtake you; he who walks in the darkness does not know where he goes.'" (John 12:35)
- **Jesus is saying that we can only have life through Him**
"While you have the Light, believe in the Light, so that you may become sons of Light." (John 12:36)

We have a decision to make

"This is the message we have heard from Him and announce to you, that God is Light, and in Him there is no darkness at all. If we say that we have fellowship with Him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth; but if we walk in the Light as He Himself is in the Light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin. If we say that we have no sin, we are deceiving ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." (1 John 1:5-9)

Digging Deeper:

(Adapted from a Ray Stedman devotional)

“If we say that we have fellowship with Him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth; but if we walk in the Light as He Himself is in the Light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin.”
(1 John 1:6-7)

It's possible to be a Christian, yet walk in darkness by turning the light of God off. John addresses this issue because many Christians struggle with it in their daily walk. By ignoring the light, you can miss the benefits of God's presence in your heart and life.

How then do people actually do this – turn off the light and walk in darkness? There are some very obvious ways:

- **They stop coming to church.** The Word of God is a channel of God's light. The Word itself is light. It penetrates and searches; it seeks out our inner life and exposes it to our view. If we stop coming to church, we escape the light. We are no longer made uncomfortable by the Word.
- **They stop reading the Bible.** Many Christians have simply turned off the light by ceasing to read the Scriptures. Underneath all the excuses that are given for this - no time, lots of pressures, not being a “reader” - there is actually a desire to escape the light.
- **They stop examining themselves.** This is an almost certain way of walking in the darkness. We seldom stop to examine ourselves. We never ask ourselves searching questions as to where we are in the Christian life. The apostle Paul says, “Examine yourselves to see whether you are in the faith.” (2 Corinthians 13:5)

Ask yourself: Where am I? How is it possible to be a Christian and yet walk in the darkness? Are we being exposed to God's Word and willingly examining ourselves in His light?

Not only is Jesus the Light, but He is calling us to be lights that reflect, or show, who He is. Read the verses below that encourage you to walk in the Light and come out of the darkness. The further challenge is to not only walk in the Light, but to *be* the light that reflects His glory.

- “Your word is a lamp to my feet And a light to my path.” (Psalms 119:105)
- “The people who were sitting in darkness saw great Light, and those who were sitting in the land and shadow of death, upon them a Light dawned.” (Matthew 4:16)
- “You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden.” (Matthew 5:14)
- “Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven.” (Matthew 5:16)
- “The Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it.” (John 1:5)
- “So Jesus said to them, ‘For a little while longer the Light is among you. Walk while you have the Light, so that darkness will not overtake you; he who walks in the darkness does not know where he goes.’ ” (John 12:35)
- “For this reason it says, ‘Awake, sleeper, And arise from the dead, And Christ will shine on you.’ ” (Ephesians 5:14)
- “But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God's own possession, so that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light...” (1 Peter 2:9)
- “but if we walk in the Light as He Himself is in the Light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin.” (1 John 1:7)
- “And the city has no need of the sun or of the moon to shine on it, for the glory of God has illumined it, and its lamp is the Lamb.” (Revelation 21:23)

Next Steps:

1. **Join the church family as we follow Jesus together.** The next membership process is at the Discover Calvary class on Sunday, August 7 from 12:30-4:00 pm in Fireside Room. We'll talk about how God designed His church to function, Calvary's history and beliefs, and go on a behind-the-scenes tour to learn about Calvary's many ministries. Find out more at calvarylife.org/discover
2. **Take a next step as a follower of Jesus.** Have you trusted in Jesus, but never been baptized? One of the last words from Jesus was for each believer to be baptized as an outward expression of their faith. To learn more about baptism, come to a one-hour class on August 21 at 9:00 am or 11:00 am in the Worship Center Prayer Room. Discover more at calvarylife.org/baptism
3. **Help show the light of Jesus to others at Fill the Bus.** On Sunday, August 14 from 9:00 am – 1:00 pm, bring school supplies and backpacks, and together we will fill a school bus with items to donate to local low-income Santa Ana elementary students and to our global partners Acres of Love Orphanage in South Africa and students at Victory School in Albania. calvarylife.org/bus



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