I AM THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD

JOHN 8:12-30

OPEN YOUR BIBLES TO JOHN CHAPTER 8. WE WILL START TODAY IN VERSE 12. JESUS IS TEACHING IN THE TEMPLE. THE JEWISH LEADERS ARE GOING BACK AND FORTH WITH JESUS. THEY ARGUE OF THE LAW AND EARTHLY RELIGION WHILE OUR LORD SPEAKS OF GRACE AND HEAVENLY SPIRITUAL TRUTHS. HOW MANY TIMES DOES JESUS HAVE TO SAY, "I AM FROM THE FATHER AND I AM HERE TO DO HIS WILL"? WE SEE IN THE HOLY SCRIPTURES THAT THE REALITY IS THIS; THE SPIRITUALLY DEAD CANNOT SEE THE TRUTH OF GOD. JESUS IS THE MESSIAH. THE SON OF GOD STEPPED OUT OF GLORY TO BECOME HUMAN AND LIVED A PERFECT LIFE IN THOUGHT, WORD, AND DEED. JESUS, INVITES EVERYONE WHO CAN HEAR HIS WORDS TO REPENT OF THEIR SIN AND BE SAVED (BY GRACE THROUGH FAITH) IN HIM. AS WE HAVE SEEN AND WILL SEE TODAY IN JOHN'S GOSPEL, THE PRIDE OF MAN HAS MADE HIM DEAF AND BLIND SPIRITUALLY. EVERYONE NEEDS JESUS. EVERYONE NEEDS FORGIVENESS OF SIN. WE WILL EITHER RECEIVE HIM NOW AND BOW THE KNEE TO HIS MAJESTY AND MERCY; OR WE REJECT HIM NOW AND BOW THE KNEE TO HIS MAJESTY AT THE FUTURE WHITE THRONE OF JUDGEMENT BEFORE SPENDING ETERNITY IN HELL. THERE IS NO OTHER OPTION.

CHURCH, CHOOSE WISELY BECAUSE TOMORROW IS NOT PROMISED TO ANYONE

John 8:12-24NIV

12 When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.” **13** The Pharisees challenged him, “Here you are, appearing as your own witness; your testimony is not valid.” **14** Jesus answered, “Even if I testify on my own behalf, my testimony is valid, for I know where I came from and where I am going. But you have no idea where I come from or where I am going. **15** You judge by human standards; I pass judgment on no one. **16** But if I do judge, my decisions are true, because I am not alone. I stand with the Father, who sent me. **17** In your own Law it is written that the testimony of two witnesses is true. **18** I am one who testifies for myself; my other witness is the Father, who sent me.” **19** Then they asked him, “Where is your father?” “You do not know me or my Father,” Jesus replied. “If you knew me, you would know my Father also.” **20** He spoke these words while teaching in the temple courts near the place where the offerings were put. Yet no one seized him, because his hour had not yet come.

21 Once more Jesus said to them, “I am going away, and you will look for me, and you will die in your sin. Where I go, you cannot

come.”[22] This made the Jews ask, “Will he kill himself? Is that why he says, ‘Where I go, you cannot come’?”

[23] But he continued, “You are from below; I am from above. You are of this world; I am not of this world. [24] I told you that you would die in your sins; if you do not believe that I am he, you will indeed die in your sins.”

MAY WE ALL HEAR THE WORDS OF JESUS CLEARLY TODAY AND SEE WITH THE EYES OF OUR HEART. SALVATION IS A FREE GIFT FOR EVERYONE, BUT IT COMES EXCLUSIVELY THROUGH CHRIST AND CHRIST ALONE.

John 8:12 NIV

[12] When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.”

WHAT DOES “LIGHT OF THE WORLD” MEAN? AFTER ALL, JESUS IS STANDING AMIDST PEOPLE SO DARK THAT THEY WANT TO KILL HIM. OUR WORLD TODAY SEEMS PRETTY DARK IN MANY WAYS

John 1:4-5 NIV

[4] In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. [5] The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

1. THE WORLD HAS NO OTHER LIGHT BUT HIM
2. THE WHOLE WORLD NEEDS JESUS AS THEIR LIGHT
3. THE WORLD WAS MADE FOR THIS LIGHT

John 1:1-3 NIV

1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. **2** He was with God in the beginning. **3** Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made.

CREATION WAS MADE FOR JESUS, THROUGH JESUS, AND BY JESUS. THE SHEKINAH GLORY HE POSESSES SHINES THE LIGHT OF HOLINESS AND TRUTH ON SIN. IT ALSO ENABLES THOSE WHO HAVE HIM TO SEE WHAT IS TRULY GOOD AND BEAUTIFUL. WE SEE THE WORLD THROUGH HIS EYES

4. ONE DAY THIS WORLD WILL BE FILLED WITH THE LIGHT OF JESUS.

SIN AND DARKNESS WILL BE CAST OUT. THAT IS WHY HELL IS CALLED OUTER DARKNESS.

“WHOEVER FOLLOWS ME (OBEDIENCE) WILL NEVER WALK IN DARKNESS, BUT WILL HAVE THE LIGHT OF LIFE”. THIS IS MORE THAN AN INTELLECTUAL UNDERSTANDING OF WHO HE IS. THIS PROMISE IS FOR THOSE THAT FOLLOW HIM—FEED YOUR SPIRIT

Colossians 1:15-20 NIV

15 The Son is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. **16** For in him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him. **17** He is before all things, and in him all things hold together. **18** And he is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything he might have the supremacy. **19** For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, **20** and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross.

HIS LIGHT WILL HELP YOU BEAR THE SORROWS OF THIS DARK WORLD. WE WILL WALK THROUGH VALLEYS OF DARKNESS IN THIS LIFE……. BUT NOT WITHOUT THE LIGHT OF JESUS

John 8:13 NIV

13 The Pharisees challenged him, “Here you are, appearing as your own witness; your testimony is not valid.”

THEY MISINTERPRETED WHAT JESUS SAID IN JOHN 5:31.

“IF I TESTIFY ABOUT MYSELF, MY TESTIMONY IS NOT TRUE”

JESUS HAS BEEN VERY CLEAR TO EXPRESS THAT HE IS NOT ACTING ON HIS OWN BUT ONLY DOES AND SAYS WHAT THE FATHER SHOWS HIM

SHARE TORCH EXAMPLE FROM JOHN PIPER

John 8:14-16 NIV

14 Jesus answered, “Even if I testify on my own behalf, my testimony is valid, for I know where I came from and where I am going. But you have no idea where I come from or where I am going. **15** You judge by human standards; I pass judgment on no one. **16** But if I do judge, my decisions are true, because I am not alone. I stand with the Father, who sent me.

JESUS IS JUST TELLING THE TRUTH, “EVEN IF I DID TESTIFY ON MY OWN, WHICH I’M NOT, IT IS TRUTH

JESUS CAME TO SAVE NOT TO JUDGE. HE WILL HOWEVER, JUDGE THE LIVING AND THE DEAD WHEN HE RETURNS

John 3:18 NIV

18 Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because they have not believed in the name of God’s one and only Son.

TO REJECT JESUS IS TO INVOKE JUDGEMENT ON ONESELF

TO RECEIVE AND BELIEVE IS TO HAVE HIM (THE LIGHT AND LIFE)

John 8:17-18

17 In your own Law it is written that the testimony of two witnesses is true. **18** I am one who testifies for myself; my other witness is the Father, who sent me."

NOTICE, JESUS CALLS IT "YOUR LAW" NOT BECAUSE THEY AUTHORED IT BUT BECAUSE THEY ARROGANTLY THOUGHT THEY ALONE POSSESSED THE KEYS TO THE TRUTH IN THE LAW

Deuteronomy 19:15 NIV

15 One witness is not enough to convict anyone accused of any crime or offense they may have committed. A matter must be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses.

OVER AND OVER AGAIN, JESUS EXPLAINS HIS DIETY AS THE GREAT I AM WHO TESTIFIES WITH THE FATHER WHO SENT HIM

John 8:19-20 NIV

19 Then they asked him, "Where is your father?"

"You do not know me or my Father," Jesus replied. "If you knew me, you would know my Father also." **20** He spoke these words while teaching in the temple courts near the place where the offerings were put. Yet no one seized him, because his hour had not yet come.

JOSEPH WAS DEAD AT THIS POINT; THIS WAS A CYNICAL QUESTION AND A BACKHANDED SLUR ABOUT THE RUMOR THAT MARY WAS PREGNANT BEFORE HER MARRIAGE TO JOSEPH

JESUS RESPONDS WITH "YOU DON'T KNOW ME OR MY FATHER"

THESE WORDS WOULD MAKE THE RELIGIOUS LEADERS GO BONKERS, YET NONE OF THEM LAID A HAND ON JESUS. GOD'S SOVERIEGN TIMING WILL NOT BE SWAYED OR THWARTED

John 8:21 NIV

21 Once more Jesus said to them, "I am going away, and you will look for me, and you will die in your sin. Where I go, you cannot come."

THIS IS A LINE IN THE SAND FOR ALL MANKIND. RECEIVE JESUS AS YOUR LORD AND SAVIOR, RECEIVE FORGIVENESS OF YOUR SIN, REPENT--TURN FROM YOUR SIN AND TURN TO GOD

OR YOU WILL DIE IN YOUR SIN

Romans 6:23 NIV

23 For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

THE PAYMENT FOR SIN THAT IS UNFORGIVEN BY GOD IS ETERNAL DEATH AND DARKNESS

ETERNAL SEPARATION FROM LIGHT, LOVE, GRACE, GOODNESS, AND PEACE

John 8:22-24 NIV

22 This made the Jews ask, “Will he kill himself? Is that why he says, ‘Where I go, you cannot come’?”

23 But he continued, “You are from below; I am from above. You are of this world; I am not of this world. **24** I told you that you would die in your sins; if you do not believe that I am he, you will indeed die in your sins.”

ONCE AGAIN, THE JEWS MINCE THE WORDS OF JESUS IN AN EARTHLY WAY

CHURCH, PLEASE DON’T MINCE THE WORDS OF JESUS AND TAKE THE TORCH OF SALVATION

SEEK HIM AND YOU WILL FIND HIM, KNOCK AND THE DOOR WILL BE OPENED TO YOU

LET THE EYES OF YOUR HEART SEE THE LIGHT OF CHRIST TODAY

END