

# Gospel of John: That You Might Believe

[John 8:12-30](#)

"The Light of the World" – May 23, 2021



## Introduction

Humanity has been a mess from the beginning. We toil, and we strive, but we never make lasting progress. With all of our striving, we still have to come face to face with the reality of death. How can we ever find our way back to the life and joy we were created for? Jesus makes a true, yet bold claim in John 8. He says I am the light of the world. He is claiming to be the only one who leads us out of our darkness and into the light we have been searching for all of our lives. He is where our hope and satisfaction is found.

## Pray

Before you begin, take some time to ask God to help you understand His word, to reveal what needs to change in you, and for the grace to follow Him in response. To help, use [Psalm 119:33-40](#) as a prayer for God to open His word up to you.

## Read & Discuss

Read [8:12-30](#)

Do you believe Jesus is the light of the world? If so, why do you believe that? What is your reasoning? Jesus says the Old Testament bears witness to Him ([John 5:39](#)). He is indeed precisely who/what the religious leaders and the people of that time looked forward to in the Old Testament. He is the Messiah. He is God in the flesh. Jesus says the main reason His claim to be the light is valid is his relationship to God the Father (v. [14](#)). Twelve times Jesus points to this. He says He came from the Father. He is one with the Father, and He is going back to Him. Jesus even directly claims to be God in verse [24](#). The greek leaves out the word "he." Jesus says, "I am." The same "I am" from the Old Testament, and the religious leaders knew exactly what He meant by that. Have you ever wanted to know what God is like? We all do. Thankfully, we know Him because our God makes himself known. He not only tells us what He is like and what He requires of us, but He sends Jesus as the light of the world. He says, look to Jesus. Hebrews 1:3 says, "He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature." Jesus even tells Phillip that whoever has seen Jesus has seen the Father ([John 14:9](#)). If Jesus is truly the light that God has sent to reveal Himself, why do the religious leaders doubt Him? Why do they push back against Jesus? Because they were judging Jesus with their own worldly agendas in mind. They were judging with a skewed vision. Jesus didn't come for their agenda but the Father's. The problem was the leaders wanted Jesus to fit their desires. They wanted Jesus to fit their style and their preference. They wanted Jesus not for Jesus but for Jesus to do their bidding. Is this possible for you in any way? How can we know for sure? It takes some self-assessment and prayer. Another way, thankfully, is God has graciously given us the local church to help us along the way. Sometimes it takes outside, loving eyes to see what we cannot see of ourselves. We need godly friends to ask, "do you see this in me"? Help me! Do you have friends like that in this church? Are you open with brothers or sisters in the church so that they can walk alongside you? If not, seek that out this week! We are all in this together. We all want to make it to the end and see our Savior face to face. When we reject God for who He is in His entirety, we are rejecting God as the true light. We are searching for light in other things. The religious leaders had made their idols, and their hearts became darkened and foolish ([Rom. 1:21-22](#)). We need to guard against

this in any way possible. Jesus warns the leaders that if they continue down this road, they will seek Him but never find Him. That is horrifying. He's saying they will keep seeking satisfaction and peace but never find it because He is the way, the truth, and the life. What they and we are seeking for is found in Jesus alone. Are you still living as something else can satisfy you? Why did Jesus come? What's His agenda? He came for the glory of God and most graciously to rescue sinners. Jesus' mission was a rescue mission (John [3:16](#), [10:10](#) [12:46](#)). Is this your agenda too? Jesus warns three times about dying in our sin. It's so devastating that he came to die for us. That's incredible love. There are many things we should care about in this world, but let us not forget there is something worse than dying in poverty. There is dying in our sin. The good news is if we trust in Him, He takes our sins from us. He removes them, and He prepares a place for us with Him. Church, we have great hope in Him, and it's proved in His resurrection from the dead.

### **Prayer of Response**

1) After hearing God's Word, what sin do I need to *confess*? From what do I need to *repent*?

2) How should my life be lived this week based on what I have heard? What should I *understand*, *believe*, *desire*, or *do*?

Spend time praying together in response to God's word asking for His help and greater faith to follow Him in the week to come.

If you missed the sermon on Sunday or would like to listen again, visit our website at <https://fbcum.org/sermons-new/>

<b>*Next week's sermon text:</b> we turn to <a href="#">Matthew 5:3-16</a> " <b>Are You Blessed?</b> "
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