INTRODUCTION

Since the beginning of creation, darkness and light have lived in contrast. When God’s first command sounded forth, the darkness was split by the light and ever since, these two great properties have symbolized evil and good. Throughout the Old Testament, darkness was the place of lostness, of evil deeds, of judgment. On the other hand, to walk in the light was to escape the darkness for righteousness. The Psalmist teaches us to sing, “The Lord is my light and my salvation.” This weekend we find that it is Jesus, God the Son Incarnate, who fulfills the imagery of light we see in the Old Testament. He is the light of the world. Whoever follows Him “will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.”

Picking up the story ...

Jesus’ pronouncement: vs. 12

Let the controversy begin: vv. 13-20

What does it mean to “follow” Jesus as the Light of the World?

Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows Me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.” John 8:12
Reflect on these passages and these questions throughout the week.

John 8:12-20; Leviticus 23:42-43; Psalm 27:1; Psalm 119:105; John 1:4-5; 1 John 1:5-7; Ephesians 5:8-14; 1 Thessalonians 5:5; Matthew 5:14-16

What festival is taking place in Jerusalem at this time? What does this feast commemorate? What did the Jews do during this festival to remember how God led His people in the wilderness? How does knowing this give more significance to Jesus’ words? Who is associated with light in the Scriptures? What then was Jesus ultimately claiming in this passage? How would every Jew at the feast understand what Jesus was saying?

What was the Pharisee’s response as a result of Jesus’ proclamation? Name some reasons many Jews did not believe who Jesus claimed to be? What was at the root of their unbelief? How is that a problem still seen today? How does this passage help us accurately proclaim to a lost world who Jesus is? Who could you share the truth of this passage with this week?

What does the New Testament teach us about those associated with light? What is the responsibility of those who are living in the light of Christ? How has the light of Jesus coming into the world change your life? How have you shared the light of Jesus with those who are walking in darkness? How do you use your testimony when you share the Gospel? What is the biggest challenge in sharing the light of Jesus? How do you overcome this hurdle?

How is Jesus’ response to the Pharisees the saddest response that one could receive? What does it mean, eternally speaking, to not know Jesus’ Father? How should observing the fact that people rejected Jesus’ teaching about Himself give you confidence to continue to share the Gospel? Who are people ultimately rejecting when they don’t want to hear what you have to say about Jesus? How can you reflect the light of Christ in your life as you go about this week?

Pray for eyes to see the many opportunities God gives you this week to share the truth of Jesus with someone. Pray for the pastors and elders of Grace Baptist Church. Pray for their unity, purity, faithfulness, and growth. Pray for ways to be generous with your calendar this week.

If you have any questions or need additional resources, email Pastor David:
david.hegg@gracebaptist.org