****

**Sermon: *“THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD”***

**Scripture: John 8:12-30**

Pastor Steve Overholt

January 21, 2018

**In the account of Creation we are reminded that God is light. Before the creation of the sun, moon or stars, there is light. That light comes from God who is the light.** He was also the light for the Children of Israel as they left the spiritual darkness of Egypt.

 It is a reminder for us today that God alone is our light in the darkness of the land and world in which we live.

**I-I am the Light of the World-** John 8:12-18

 A-Review

 1-In our last visit to John’s gospel we saw the Priests daily bringing water from the Gihon Spring in a gold pitcher that they poured on the altar.

 2-Jesus said, ‘If anyone , let him come to me and drink.’

 The story of the woman taken in adultery ends the account of Jesus at that feast and then we come to 8:12 where we read that Jesus again spoke to them.

 3-Here Jesus says, ‘I am of the world.’

This is the second of the seven ‘I am’ statements that Jesus makes and that are only recorded in John’s account of the gospel.

 John 6:35 ‘I am the Bread of Life’ John 8:12 ‘I am the light of the world’

 John 10:7-9 ‘I am the Door of the sheep’ John 10:11 ‘I am the Good Shepherd’

 John 11:25 ‘I am the resurrection and the life’ John 14:6 ‘I am the way and the truth

 John 15:1 ‘I am the true vine’ and the life’

 4-To believe in the light means that you must the light.

 B-Note the of this statement.

 1-‘I am light of the world.’

 2-He did not say ‘a light.’ Many things are declared a light in our world.

As the Priests began to light the lamps, perhaps *then* Jesus called out. *‘I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.’*

**II- Questions of Jesus’ Parentage**- v.19-24

 Since the religious leaders had not been able to answer Jesus’ argument through questioning the truth of what He said, now they chose a more salacious way.

 A-Jesus and the Father support each other- v.18

 1-Jesus knew that God was His father-

 2-They asked where Jesus’ father was- v.19

 3-Jesus responded that they did not know Him (Jesus), nor did they know -

 4- Jesus is the express representation of .

 B-Jesus was speaking in the temple where the offerings were brought-

 Many people were around as He taught. He was speaking clearly about being the Son of

 God, but ‘no one arrested Him, because His hour had not yet come.’ v.20

 1-The obvious thing to see here is that, our .

 2-Though the time was short, He continued to teach that each needed to believe in Him.

 I am reminded of Peter’s 2nd letter when he told his readers and all of us, that it is not

 the will of God that any should (eternally perish), but that all should come

 to repentance. 2 Peter 3:9

 As Jesus taught, some argued, but we see in vs. 30, many believed in Him.

**III- Who Jesus Really Is- v.24-30**

 A-He tells them that He is going away-

 1-He tells those listening that: ‘you will seek me, and you will die in .’ v.21

 2-It is not the abundance of sins that causes our eternal separation from God but the

 singular sin of rejecting the One who offers salvation.

 3-Jesus spoke of going to His home-

 4-He was from above but they were from .

 B-They did not understand His teaching because they were not ready to hear and accept.

 In verse 30 we read that many believed in Him.

 ‘Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name.’ John 20:30-31

**Questions for Further Consideration**-

1-In John 8:12 we read that, ‘Whoever follows me will not (never) walk in darkness, but will have the

 light of life.’ What are the implications of this statement?

2-In vs.15 Jesus said that the people ‘judge according to the flesh.’ What does this mean?

3-In John 7:30 and in 8:20 we read that no one took Jesus because His hour had not come.

 What are the implications for that truth to us today?

4-What does it mean, what are the implications of the statement, ‘…I do nothing on my own

 authority but speak just as the Father taught me.’