

- Church Web Site

www.tryonchurchofchrist.com

All sermons are posted here
plus additional resources



A just weight
and balance

are the
LORD'S:

Thus saith the Lord...

- Jesus said:

- *I am the*

- light of the world*

- "He who follows me
will not walk
in darkness,*

- (John 8:12)*

- “*I am the light of the world.*”

- “I”

{**ἐγώ**}

Jesus is

emphatically stating:

- I and I alone,
- I and no other.
- **Isaiah 42:6** (

***I, Jehovah,...will give thee
for a light of the Gentiles;***

(Lenski Commentary)

- One of the great blessings during the desert sojourn of Israel **was the pillar of cloud and of fire,**

- Evidence of the **presence of Jehovah** with his people.

- The pillar of fire **dispelled the darkness of night** and the dread of the unknown.

- Israel followed that pillar and camped in its light every night.
 - What that pillar was for Israel in days gone by Jesus is for the whole world.
 - That pillar was Jehovah,
Jesus is God's own Son.

- As the Light of the world,
Christ claimed to be God,
for God is light
(**1 John 1:5**).
- Darkness speaks of
death, ignorance, sin.

- Light speaks of life, knowledge, holiness.
- There is nothing so glorious as a blaze of light piercing the darkness.
 - That is what Jesus is to those who walk in darkness.

- In the Greek

“Light”

{**G-5457**}

can mean either:

- The light which issues from the source of life
- Or the light which gives life.
- In this passage it means both

- Jesus is the very light emitting from God.
 - And he is the light which gives men life.
 - Just as the flower can never blossom if it never sees the sunlight,
- So our lives can never blossom with grace and beauty until they have received Divine light from Jesus.

- The idea in “light” is that of an active power
- Which conquers the opposing power called “darkness.”
- Each constitutes a power,
- Each stands opposed to the other,
 - And light triumphs, over darkness.
 - All the world’s darkness cannot triumph over light.

- Note: “**The darkness**,”
 - Not merely
“**darkness**”
in general.
 - In the Greek
it is
“**The**
darkness”
(**John 8:12**)

- It is
“*The truth*”
(**John 8:32**)
- VS
- “*The darkness*”
(**John 8:12**)
- That is the battle
where souls
are won or lost.

- Divine truth,
clear as light,
over against
falsehood and ignorance;
- Divine holiness,
over against
sin and impurity;
- Divine blessedness
over against
misery and death.

- Jesus
is the shining image
of divine truth.
- His light
penetrates the darkness
of the world
- Delivering us from
the darkness
of falsehood,
sin, and death.

- Jesus talks of following him.
- What does He mean?
- The Greek for to follow is *akolouthein*
(G-190);
- It is from a Greek word meaning
”A Road”

- Like the Divine Light in the desert,
Jesus as the light of the world must be followed.
 - Like a Pilgrim traveling at night
the Light of the word must be followed.

- ***Akolouthein***
(G-190)

- The Road

has five different

but closely connected
meanings.

- **# 1** It is often used of a **soldier following his captain.**

- The soldier follows wherever the captain **may lead.**

- The Christian is the soldier **whose commander is Christ.**

- **# 2** It is often used of a slave accompanying his master.
- Wherever the master goes the slave is at his service.
 - The Christian is the slave whose joy it is always to serve Christ.

- **# 3** It is often used of accepting wise counsel.

- The Christian is one who guides his life and conduct by the wise counsel of Christ

- **# 4** It means obeying the rule of law.
- The Christian accepts the law of the law of Christ to govern his life.

- **# 5** It is often used of following a wise teacher's line of argument.

- It means to listen with full attention.

- Taking the message into the mind and heart.

- *Thy word
have I hid
in my heart,
that I might not
sin against thee.*
(**Psalm 119:11**)

- When we walk alone we are bound to stumble and grope,
 - For so many of life's problems are beyond human solution.

- When we walk alone we are bound to take the wrong way, because we have no secure map of life.
 - *It is not in man, to direct his own steps:*
(**Jeremiah 10:23**)

- When Jesus made his claim to be the Light of the World the scribes and Pharisees reacted with hostility.
- To them it sounded like a claim to be the Messiah.

- The word light in Jewish thought was God.
- "*The Lord is my light*" (Psalm 27:1).
- "*By his light I walked through darkness*" (Job 29:3).
- "*When I sit in darkness the Lord will be a light to me*" (Micah 7:8).

- The Rabbis declared that the name of the Messiah was Light.
- When Jesus claimed to be the Light of the World, he was making a claim which they could not accept.

- The Jewish leaders insisted that a statement such as Jesus made could not be regarded as accurate because it was backed by insufficient evidence.
 - His word alone.

- It was Jewish law that any statement must be founded on the evidence of two witnesses before it could be regarded as true.

- ***Only on the evidence of two witnesses, or of three witnesses, shall a charge be sustained" (Deuteronomy 19:15).***

- How was Jesus to answer that charge?
- It would appear that Jesus is in a conundrum.
- A difficult situation with seemingly no solution.

- First, he answered that his own witness was enough.

- He was so conscious of his own authority that no other witness was necessary.

- This was not pride or self-confidence.

- It was simply the kind of thing which happens every day.

- A great surgeon is confident in his own ability.
- A great lawyer is sure of his own interpretation and application of the law.
 - It is not that he is proud of his own knowledge;
 - It is simply that he knows that he knows.

- Second, Jesus said that he had a second witness, and that second witness was God.

- How does God bear witness to the supreme authority of Jesus?

- The witness of God is in Jesus' words.
- No man could speak with such wisdom unless God had given him knowledge.

- The witness of God is in Jesus' deeds.

- No man could do such things unless God was acting through him.

- The witness of God is in the effect of Jesus upon men and women.
- He works changes in men which are obviously beyond human power to work.
 - The very fact that Jesus can make bad men good is proof that his power is not simply a man's power, but God's.

- Jesus words were in fact backed by a double witness,
- That of his own authority
- And that of God.

- Jesus dealt with his right to judge.

(John 8:25)

- His coming into the world was not primarily for judgment;
it was for love.

- **John 3:16-17**

***For God so loved the world,
that he gave his only begotten Son,
that whosoever believes in him
should not perish, but have
everlasting life.***

- **3:17** ***For God sent not his Son
into the world
to condemn the world;
but that the world through him
might be saved.***

- At the same time a man's reaction to Jesus is in itself a judgment.

- There is the judgment that is based on human knowledge which never sees below the surface.
- That was the judgment of the scribes and Pharisees;
 - And that of any human judgment,
 - For man on his own never sees below the surface.

- There is judgment based on a **knowledge of all the facts,**

- **Even the hidden facts,** and that can belong only to God.

- **Psalm 139:1**

O LORD, You have searched me and known me.

- **Jeremiah 17:10**

I, the LORD, search the heart; I examine the mind to reward a man according to his way, by what his deeds deserve.

- Therein lies at once our **comfort** and our **warning**.
- Only Jesus knows **all the facts**.
- That makes him **merciful** and **vengeful**.

- It also enables him to see the sins in us which are hidden from the eyes of men.
- The judgment of Jesus is perfect because it is made with perfect knowledge.

- Some will initially be drawn to the light **but will turn from it** and prefer the darkness.

- **John 3:20**

For every one that does evil hates the light, neither comes to the light, lest his deeds should be reprov'd.

- **2 Timothy 4:10**

Demas has forsaken me, having loved this present world,

- Lastly, Jesus bluntly told the scribes and Pharisees that they had no real knowledge of God.

- 2 Timothy 3:7

*“Ever learning,
and never able
to come to the knowledge
of the truth”*

- The tragedy was that the whole history of Israel had been designed so that the Jews should recognize the Son of God when he came.

- But God

- did not force**

- that decision upon them.

- They were so sure

- of their own conception**

- of the messiah

- that they had become

- spiritually blind.

- Did not Jeremiah of old say:

*Hear now this,
O foolish people,
and without understanding;
which have eyes,
and see not;
which have ears,
and hear not:
(Jeremiah 5:21)*

- Matthew 22:29

- But Jesus answered them,

“You are wrong,

because you

know not

the Scriptures...

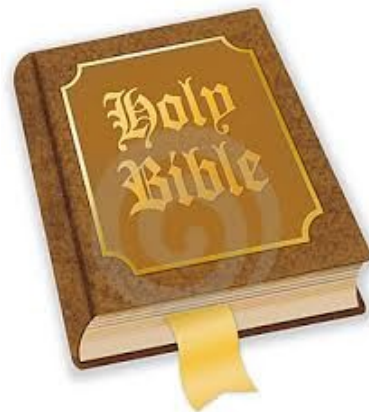
- How well do you know the scriptures?

- **Think on these things**
- **Philippians 4:8**

**The doors of the church
are open.**

**The Spirit and the Bride
Say
“Come”.**

Revelation 22:17



- 08-29-2021 Tryon, NC