

III. The Controversy Regarding Jesus Christ. (5:1 - 12:50)

C. Just After The Feast of Tabernacles in Jerusalem .

After the plot with the woman failed to entrap the Master, Jesus continued to make affirmations which gave evidence to His heavenly origin. His antagonists challenged each and every truth articulated by the Lord giving evidence to their spiritual blindness. While these affirmations may seem redundant to us on this side of the New Testament writing, it gives evidence to the Lord's longsuffering and patience. He repeats these self proclamation of Divinity in order to give His antagonists multiple opportunities to listen, learn, and to believe and RECEIVE Jesus as their MESSIAH.

Man's Need: The Light of the World, 8:12-20

1 Jesus made a great claim and promise (v.12-13)

- a. The claim: **"I AM The Light of the World"** (v.12a), See John 1:4.
(Is. 60:1. Arise, shine for thy light is come, for Jews. They rejected HIM at His first coming, but will be converted at the second Coming – Ro.11:26)
- b. The promise: "Follow me and you will not walk in darkness" (v.12b)
Mat 5:14."... the Light of life." Life in the John's thought is Divine blessedness, the very essence of Divine activity and essential being.
"shall have." "I in them, they in me." John 14:20. The believer's possession of the light. Col 1:27. ("Christ in you, the hope of glory.")
- c. The Pharisees objected. Your testimony is false. You are bearing testimony about yourself without another witness. (v.13)

2 Proof 1: Christ's knowledge of His origin and destiny (v.14)

- a. Jesus knew His origin and destiny. Jesus is Divine, he proved it by supernatural deeds, witnessed by many. His Divine self consciousness bears witness. It is self affirming from God's perspective. (v.14a)
- b. Men (natural man) cannot know this truth(v.14b), - where Christ came from, nor where He is going. (John 9:29)

3 Proof 2: Man's incompetence to judge (v.15-16)

- a. Man judges by appearance. You judge my mere humanity. Look beneath my “flesh.” This is limited judgment reserved for the “spiritual man” only (v.15a, I Cor. 2:14)
- b. Jesus judges not now, but came to save. (v.15b), He came with that as his primary aim, purpose; to heal, not to wound; to save, not to destroy; to give time for repentance, not to hurry sinners to their doom; to illumine, not to cover with darkness. (John 3:17) But, by my “appearance” judgment is implied to all who reject me. And in this judgment I and the Father are ONE.(v.16)

4 Proof 3: The law's testimony – two witnesses from a human perspective (v.17-18)

- a. Jesus met the legal requirements according to Moses’ law, using the words of men in a loose sense, since he was more than a mere man. (v.17)
- b. Jesus had another witness – the Father (v.18) See John 5:37. The entire Old Testament bears witness to Christ. Jesus Himself calls the entire Scriptures into the witness stand in John 5:39 “Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me.”

Also the Father’s voice from heaven in Matthew 3:17; Matthew 17:5; John 12:28.

5 Proof 4: The Father's presence within (v.19)

- a. Jesus was mocked. (v.19a) They refused to recognize Him by his deeds and words. Spiritual blindness closed their eyes. Mt 13:13 “Therefore speak I to them in parables: because they seeing see not; and hearing they hear not, neither do they understand.” (Is. 6:9)
- b. The Father was in Him (v.19b) See John 14:6 “Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.” John 14:9 Jesus saith unto him, Have I been so long time with you, and yet hast thou not known me, Philip? he that hath seen me hath seen the Father; and how sayest thou then, Shew us the Father? 10 Believest thou not that I am in the Father, and the Father in me? the words that I speak unto you I speak not of myself: but the Father that dwelleth in me, he doeth the works.

6 Conclusion: The tragedy—He was rejected IN THE TEMPLE (v.20)

Man's Futile Search for Utopia and Light, 8:21-24

1 Man's search (v.21-22)

- a. Man seeks Messiah, - the wrong one. (v.21a)
- b. Man fails, does not find Him, and dies in sin (v.21b)
- c. Man's end: separated from the Messiah (v.21c)
- d. Man mocks the idea of Jesus' Messiahship (v.22)

2 Man's futility and failure (v.23-24)

- a Reason 1: Man has a different origin and being than Christ (v.23)
- b. Reason 2: Man sins and dies (v.24a)
- c. Reason 3: Man does not believe I AM (v.24b)

Man's Tragic Failure to Understand the Light, 8:25-30

1 Man's very basic question (v.25)

- a. Who is Jesus? (v.25a)
- b. Jesus' reply: He is just who He claims to be (v.25b)

2 Man does not grasp that Jesus is God's Spokesman and Judge—the One who brought the message of the true God (v.26-27)

3 Man does not grasp that Jesus is the Son of Man—the One who was to be lifted up (v.28a)

4 Man does not grasp that Jesus is the great "I Am"—the Son of God Himself (v.28b)

5 Man does not grasp that Jesus was the One who God never left alone (v.29)

- a God sent Him, the Father was always with Him (v.29a)
- b. Jesus always pleased the Father (v.29b)

6 Conclusion: Many believed as Jesus spoke. (was it true belief?) (v.30)