

Passage to Ponder

(John 8:12)

Then Jesus spoke to them again, saying, "I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life."

The Apostle John records for us in this passage a teaching that Jesus gave in the Jewish temple the morning after the Feast of Tabernacles. For the last seven days the Jews celebrated and praised God for His power and grace that He showed Israel by sustaining them in the wilderness for 40 years. The Jews celebrated by feasting, singing, offering sacrifices, dancing, and observing different rituals. A couple rituals they observed was they live in booths for seven days to remind them they were once sojourners, they gather water from the pool of Siloam to remember that God provided water from the rock and they lit giant lamp stands to remind them how God miraculously lead their ancestors through the wilderness at night by the pillar of fire.

It's believed by scholars that Jesus made this I AM statement while standing by these lamp stands. Jesus used these lamp stands as an illustration to declare to them that their celebrating didn't have to be temporary but eternal, He was the light of the world, God come in the flesh their long a waited Savior and Messiah. If they were willing to follow Him He would free them from the darkness of sin and give them the light of eternal life. He would change their idea of walking in the light from a ritual, to a present reality. We know from the rest of the chapter that some choose to follow Jesus, but sadly many others choose to forsake Him

The same is still true today, some choose to follow Jesus and walk in the light, while others choose to reject Jesus and remain in darkness. This morning if you have chosen to follow Jesus, the Light of the world you can be thankful and celebrate. Were told why by Paul in Colossians 1:12-14,

giving thanks to the Father who has qualified us to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in the light. He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love, in whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins.

You and I have been delivered from the power of darkness and put into the kingdom of the King of Kings and Lord of Lords. Were also told that because we are in this kingdom we're saints of light, that means we have been given the opportunity to bear witness of the Jesus, the Light of the world. Let's celebrate that this morning!