



## LIGHT OF THE WORLD

### #2: WALKING AS CHILDREN OF THE LIGHT

December 9, 2018

Pastor Keith Jenkins

#### BIBLICAL TEXT(S)

*"We say to Jesus, 'You are the light of the world, but you are also the light of my life!' If His light is in us, we walk as children of the light"*

–Pastor  
Keith Jenkins

*"When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."" (John 8:12)*

*"For once you were darkness, but now you are Light in the Lord; **walk as children of Light** [live as those who are native-born to the Light] (for the fruit [the effect, the result] of the Light consists in all goodness and righteousness and truth), trying to learn [by experience] what is pleasing to the Lord [and letting your lifestyles be examples of what is most acceptable to Him--your behavior expressing gratitude to God for your salvation]. Do not participate in the worthless and unproductive deeds of darkness, but instead expose them [by exemplifying personal integrity, moral courage, and godly character]; for it is disgraceful even to mention the things that such people practice in secret. But all things become visible when they are exposed by the light [of God's precepts], for it is light that makes everything visible." (Ephesians 5:8-13 Amplified Version)*

#### **Additional Texts:**

*"Therefore be imitators of God as dear children and walk in the way of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God." (Ephesians 5:1-2)*

*"For though you might have ten thousand instructors in Christ, yet you do not have many fathers; for in Christ Jesus I have begotten you through the gospel. Therefore I urge you, imitate me. For this reason I have sent Timothy to you, who is my beloved and faithful son in the Lord, who will remind you of my ways in Christ, as I teach everywhere in every church." (1 Corinthians 4:15-17)*

*"Imitate me, just as I also imitate Christ." (1 Corinthians 11:1)*

*"My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends." (John 15:12-13)*

#### MESSAGE SUMMARY

The Gospel announced not that the tyranny of Roman rule was coming to an end, but that an end to the tyranny of sin was in sight. A light had come to bring an end to the power of deep darkness. This time of year is a time to celebrate God's light come into the world, as well as to recommit ourselves to the God of light.

Jesus claimed to be the light of life. In doing so, he is claiming to be God. The proper response to Jesus is humility expressed in submission and surrender. Jesus is life, the source, the sum total of truth, the one who supplies life. In Ephesians, Paul calls us children of light. Just as children naturally resemble their parents, we should resemble our Heavenly Father, who is revealed ultimately in Jesus.

#### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

*These questions are designed to help you lead your group through a progression of engagement with the Bible passage...*

#### LEAN IN

*These are icebreaker/warm up questions, mostly just to get the group talking and start the flow of conversation. Choose one question and talk it over for 5-10 minutes.*

1. What example or story stood out to you in Sunday's sermon?  
Why was it significant to you?
2. What was your high/low since our group last met? What was the best thing that happened and the worst thing that happened?

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS, CONT.

*...and the speaker's message, helping them understand and apply the teaching.*

3. Last time we met, we talked about Jesus declaration that He is the Light of the World. Has that lesson and discussion has an impact on your life? If so, how?
4. What is one thing that you're looking forward to this week? What's one that you are dreading?

### LOOK DOWN

*These are questions on the passage and observations about what's been read.*

*Spend about 15-20 minutes on three questions max*

1. If Paul already told the Ephesians that they are "in the light of the Lord," why do you suppose he told them to "live as children of the light?"
2. What is the fruit that ought to come out of our lives as children of light?
3. Paul says, "find out what pleases the Lord." How do you think we can find this out?
4. What are the fruit of the light in verse 9? What do those qualities look like lived out?
5. What would it look like to have a lifestyle that is characterized by the character of God?

### LOOK OUT

*These questions help connect the world of the Bible to today.*

*Spend about 15-20 minutes on three questions max*

1. Pastor Keith explained that in Jewish history on each night of feast of Tabernacles, the worshipers awaited the signal of the special lighting of the festive golden lamps of Tabernacles. The lamps were intended to remind worshipers of God's leading the people of Israel through the wilderness at night by a pillar of fire. The lighting of lamps also signaled Israel's re-commitment to the God of light. Why do you think Jesus chose to describe himself this way?
2. How does the behavior and customs of the world compare to the way of light?
3. If the world is characterized by darkness, and light is symbolic of God's presence, what tensions or challenges arise when we as His children, walk in the light?
4. In first century Israel, Paul's audience would have understood a fragrant offering as a substitute being offered for our atonement. Pastor Keith says we're never more like Jesus than when we love sacrificially. If we are an offering that can be consumed, what would it look like for you to love sacrificially?
5. In the Bible, how do you see Jesus handle people who oppose him, falsely accuse him, who are caught in sin, etc.? How do you handle such situations?

### LOOK IN

*These are questions that help you consider personal application.*

*Spend about 15-20 minutes on three questions max*

1. Pastor Keith said your coworkers and family are not necessarily listening to what you say, but they will pay attention to how you live. How does the way you live reflect your Heavenly Father, (or not)?
2. If we are children of light, how do we mimic our Father, or act as He does?
3. In what ways do you want to follow in Jesus' footsteps?
4. Who are mothers and fathers in the faith you can emulate as they follow Jesus?
5. Pastor Keith spoke about telling his kids that when they left the house, they would be representing the whole family. Whatever you do, wherever you go, you reflect your Father. What does it look like to represent your Father well in the world?
6. Pastor Keith said that if you are in the Word daily, your mind will be geared towards thinking on the things of God. How could implement time in Scripture so that it be hidden in your heart?

**DISCUSSION  
QUESTIONS,  
CONT.**

**LIVE IT OUT**

*These action steps help apply this week's message to day to day life.*

*Choose one question and talk it over for 5-10 minutes.*

1. Even in the midst of adversity, what would it look like to say to God,  
“...Not my will, but your will be done?”
2. Who are the people whom it's harder to love like Jesus?  
How could you love even those people whom it is hardest to?
3. How can you best glorify your Father today?