

Bible Study

Gods Word in Focus



Week Sixteen
Gospel of John
John 8:12-41

"Whoever follows me shall not walk in darkness"

John 8:12-20

Do you know what it's like to be in total darkness, confused, disoriented, not knowing where to turn for help? When the Israelites wandered in the desert for forty years, confused and disoriented, and wishing they were back in their familiar huts at Egypt, God made his presence known to them through a pillar of fire at night and a cloud by day.

This light not only brought them assurance of safety and care, but it literally guided them through a trackless wasteland. Around the time of the Feast of Tabernacles, also known as the Festival of Lights, Jesus proclaims that he is the "light of the world". This statement must have made a striking impression on the Jews who had gathered in Jerusalem for the occasion.

For eight nights the great candelabras which stood in the Temple courtyard lit the Jerusalem skyline with a blaze of dazzling light. Jesus' statement very likely came at the end of the Festival when the great lights were extinguished.

**"When you have lifted up the Son of man,
then you will know that I am he"**

John 8:21-30

When the people of Israel were afflicted with serpents in the wilderness because of their sin, God instructed Moses: "Make a fiery serpent, and set it on a pole; and every one who is bitten, when he looks at it, shall live" (Numbers 21:8).

The bronze serpent points to the cross of Christ which defeats sin and death and obtains everlasting life for those who believe. The result of Jesus "being lifted up on the cross" and his rising and exaltation to the Father's right hand in heaven, is our "new birth in the Spirit" and adoption as sons and daughters of God.

God not only redeems us, but he fills us with his own divine life and power that we might share in his glory. Jesus gives us the Holy Spirit that we may have power to be his witnesses and to spread and defend the gospel by word and action, and to never be ashamed of Christ's Cross.

"The truth will make you free"

John 8:31- 41

Do you know the joy and freedom of submission to God and his word? Freedom today usually means "freedom to do as I please". This notion of freedom, however, is a mask for servitude to one's passions and unruly desires and to the power of sin.

Jesus offers his disciples true freedom -- freedom from the slavery of fear, the slavery of selfishness, freedom from the fear of what others might think or say about us, and freedom from hurtful desires and the power of sin.

The good news of the gospel is that Christ has set us free from the power of sin. How is this possible?

Through the power of his Holy Spirit we can choose to walk in his way of love and holiness. A disciple is a follower and a listener. If we listen to the words of Jesus, with a humble and teachable spirit, he will give us the grace and the power to follow in his way of holiness.

Ask the Lord to open your ears to his word that you may be attentive to his voice.