Jesus Christ is the Light of the World

John 8:12—*Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.*

The Sin of all men is judged as walking in darkness.

Sin is missing the mark, making the wrong choice, zeal without knowledge.

Not knowing where you are going, what you are doing, not knowing Who **Jesus is.**

1. A Revelation of Man making choices,

* follow or not follow

“he that followeth shall not walk in darkness”

* 1. Enslaved by Sin:
  2. Walking in darkness
     1. Walking in darkness begins with a wrong choice

Ps 82:5 They know not, neither will they understand; they walk on in darkness: all the foundations of the earth are out of course.

Pr 2:13 Who leave the paths of uprightness, to walk in the ways of darkness;

Isa 59:9—Therefore is judgment far from us, neither doth justice overtake us: we wait for light, but behold obscurity; for brightness, but we walk in darkness.

* + 1. Walking in the light is the only right choice

John 8:12—Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.

John 12:35 Then Jesus said unto them, Yet a little while is the light with you. Walk while ye have the light, lest darkness come upon you: for he that walketh in darkness knoweth not whither he goeth.

Eph. 5:8 For ye were sometimes darkness, but now are ye light in the Lord: walk as children of light:

1John 1:6 If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth:

1. Christ is revealed as being the Light of life.
   1. Sin is exposed as being darkness and death.
   2. Christ manifests His life in the Light of the Gospel.

John 8:12 Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.

1:4 In him was life; and the life was the light of men.

Job 3:20 Wherefore is light given to him that is in misery, and life unto the bitter in soul;

33:28 He will deliver his soul from going into the pit, and his life shall see the light.

Ps 27:1 The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? the LORD is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?

36:9 For with thee is the fountain of life: in thy light shall we see light.

Pr 6:23 For the commandment is a lamp; and the law is light; and reproofs of instruction are the way of life:

2Co 4:4 In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.

2Ti 1:10 But is now made manifest by the appearing of our Saviour Jesus Christ, who hath abolished death, and hath brought life and immortality to light through the gospel:

1. Man gripped by sin is faced with a choice
   1. The adulterous woman is faced with a choice
   2. The hypocritical religionists pictured as being critical, condemning, self-righteous, double minded and respecter of persons are faced with a choice.
   3. Every believer is faced with a choice.

John 8:30 As he spake these words, many believed on him.

John 6:63 It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life.

John 8:31—*Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; 32 And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.*

* This text is a revelation of God's Great Light
* The context is a most striking picture of the darkness of Sin and the weakness of flesh

Every person outside of Christ is sinful and walking in darkness.

In the woman man is seen as adulterous and guilty—living a life of darkness, without purpose and meaning and significance.

In the religionists man is seen as deceitful, critical, condemning,

selfish, self-righteous, and loaded with guilt. Not a single religionist is seen to be free from the darkness of serious sin. Jesus reveals Himself to be the Light of the World, the One who brings liberty, forgiveness, purpose, meaning, and significance to the life of man.

There is a real contrast of lives here.

* Jesus' peaceful and obedient life is a worshipful life contrasted with the turbulent and judgmental lives of the religionists that did not know how to worship God in Spirit and in Truth.
* Jesus stoops before the turbulence to calm and settle the heart of the believer and the receiver and destroy the works of the devil (the works of darkness).
* A picture can be drawn of the Christian life as quiet and worshipful contrasted with a turbulent world.

The secret to Jesus' calmness and peace is He got alone with God. He often went off into the mount of Olives to be alone with God.

John 8:1—*Jesus went unto the mount of Olives. 2 And early in the morning he came again into the temple, and all the people came unto him; and he sat down, and taught them.*

Luke 21:37—*And in the day time he was teaching in the temple; and at night he went out, and abode in the mount that is called the mount of Olives. 38 And all the people came early in the morning to him in the temple, for to hear him.*

It was a favorite spot of His, a place where He could be alone with God and His disciples, a place of quietness where God could meet with Him face to face, strengthening and encouraging Him

Matthew 26:30—*And when they had sung an hymn, they went out into the mount of Olives.*

Matthew 26:36—*Then* *cometh Jesus with them unto a place called Gethsemane, and saith unto the disciples, Sit ye here, while I go and pray yonder.*

Jesus began His teaching early in the morning. The words "came" and "taught" are continuous action in the Greek. The people *kept coming* to Him and He *kept teaching* them. His very mission in life was that of worshipping God and teaching and ministering to people. By this He demonstrated how all men should walk through life: worshipping God, teaching and ministering to people. Every man needs to be taught and every man needs the ministry of others during the trials of life.

1.  There was the guilt of the woman and some unknown man. They were both guilty of the serious sin of adultery, a sin that affects so many lives. Under Jewish law it was considered so serious that the parties were to be stoned to death ([Leviticus 20:10](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Lev+20%3A10); Deut. 22:13-24). this sin speaks to the sin of every person.

⇒  This sin was a work of darkness. All sin is, and most sin is actually done under the cover of darkness. An attempt is made to hide it from wife, husband, mother, father, employer, class-mate.

⇒  The man and woman thought what we all often think—that their sin would never be discovered, that no one would ever find out. But they overlooked two things that we all ignore: in the vast majority of cases, sin has been discovered; and sin, the very act of it, is always seen by God.

⇒  The sin took place at the time of the feast, where the atmosphere was party-like and where men and women were brought together by drinking and dancing and the indulgence of the crowd. Such an atmosphere corrupts even those with the best intentions and the highest morals.

2.  Those who caught the woman in the act of adultery were *great sinners*.

a.  They were vindictive and revengeful. They wanted to strike out, to get back at her. She was publicly exposed. She should have been held in custody in some private place until judgment was passed, but she was unmercifully dragged before the public to expose her sin and to shame and punish her. Why? (She hurt her husband and loved ones so much that they struck out at her. Public exposure was his way to strike back at her). NO! NO! NO!

b. They were vindictive and revengeful. They wanted to strike out and get at Jesus.

The man who committed adultery with her was not exposed. Why?

⇒  He could have escaped, fled before they grabbed him.

⇒  He could have been feared or bought his accusers off.

⇒  He could have been released because, as is the case in so many societies, misbehavior (sin) by men was more acceptable than by women.

3.  There was the guilt of the religionists and the public. When the accusers dragged the woman to the religionists, people all along the way joined in, as the case so often is. The religionists saw a chance to test Jesus, so they took the woman before Him, hoping to discredit Him.

⇒  If Jesus said the woman was not guilty, He would be breaking Jewish law and be leaving Himself open to the charge of being too lenient with sin.

⇒  If Jesus said the woman was guilty and should be killed, He would be breaking Roman law which did not consider adultery a sin worthy of death. He would also be criticized as lacking mercy and love, compassion and forgiveness.

Note several things about the dark nature of man seen in these religionists and in the crowd who joined in the public exposure.

a.  There was a sinful spirit among all these involved, a spirit...

•  of self-righteousness that lacked forgiveness

•  of criticism that lacked love

•  of judging that lacked compassion

•  of censoring that lacked understanding

•  of condemning that lacked sympathy

•  of punishing that lacked restoration

•  of cruelty that lacked curing

•  of destroying that lacked restoring

b.  There was hypocrisy. They felt and claimed that they were religious, better than the woman, free from any sin serious enough to be exposed. They even used Scripture to condemn her sin and to support their right to condemn her.

c.  There was complete failure to "love thy neighbor as thyself" ([Matthew 5:43](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Mt+5%3A43); [Matthew 19:19](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Mt+19%3A19); [Matthew 22:39](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Mt+22%3A39); [Mark 12:31](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Mk+12%3A31); [Luke 10:27](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Lk+10%3A27); [Romans 13:9](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ro+13%3A9); [Galatians 5:14](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Gal+5%3A14); [James 2:8](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Jas+2%3A8)):

⇒  a complete failure to set about a ministry of restoration and reconciliation to God and man.

4.  There was Jesus "He stooped down, and with His finger wrote on the ground," saying nothing. We are not told why Jesus stooped in silence or what He wrote on the ground.

Are you really curious of His writings?

He ignored them only for a time. Jesus will not ignore nor allow sin to go on forever. He will arise, face it, and judge it.

 John 8:7 *So when they continued asking him, he lifted up himself, and said unto them, He that is without sin among you, let him first cast a stone at her.*

No man is without sin. Every one of the men standing there knew it, and every one of them was convicted within his conscience. They all left, leaving Jesus and the woman alone.

And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil" ([John 3:19](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Jn+3%3A19)).

As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one" Romans 3:10

 5. Jesus said that stones could be cast at the sinner. But He placed a limitation on casting stones. "He that is without sin, let him first cast a stone." (Note: this means that only Christ can judge, for no person is without sin.)

1. The great revelation. Jesus alone has the right to condemn and forgive.

* You don’t have to walk in darkness you can be completely free from sin.

The picture of the woman is of every person when it comes to sin and judgment, every person stands alone before Christ—stands shamed and stripped of all righteousness, for no person possesses righteousness. There are no accusers. No man can condemn the woman. The only righteousness and the only perfection, the only One who is not guilty of sin, is Christ and Christ alone. He alone is worthy to stand in judgment.

1.  Jesus did not condemn, but gave light to the World.

My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous: and he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world" (1 John 2:1-2).

2.  Jesus purposed to forgive us: "Neither do I condemn thee."

Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us" ([Romans 8:34](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ro+8%3A34)).

In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace" ([Ephes. 1:7](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Eph+1%3A7)).

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness" ([1 John 1:9](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Jn+1%3A9)).

3.  Jesus challenges the world

John 8:12—Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.

"Go, and sin no more." Stop your sinning—make a clean break—do it no more. The warning is clear: repentance is essential for forgiveness. Afterward Jesus findeth him in the temple, and said unto him, Behold, thou art made whole: sin no more, lest a worse thing come upon thee" ([John 5:14](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Jn+5%3A14)). And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem" ([Luke 24:47](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Lk+24%3A47)).

Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost" ([Acts 2:38](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ac+2%3A38)).

Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof" ([Romans 6:12](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ro+6%3A12)).

Awake to righteousness, and sin not; for some have not the knowledge of God: I speak this to your shame" ([1 Cor. 15:34](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Co+15%3A34)).