

*Valley Bible Church – Sermon Notes*

**Sermon Notes for March 12-13, 2005**

**"Jesus: The Light of the World"**

**John 8:13-19**

John 8:12-59 is a continuing record of the events associated with the last day of the Feast of Booths.

The passage begins with a claim by Christ that He is the light of the world (John 8:12)

The initial response of the Pharisees to the claim of Christ consisted of two short but hard hitting statements (John 8:13-19).

The first statement of the Pharisees in response to Christ's claim was "Your witness is not true" (John 8:13-18).

The Pharisees, in declaring that His witness was not true because He was bearing witness of Himself, were challenging the legal competency of His testimony.

The Law of Moses required, in a legal proceeding, that there would be more than one witness testifying to the truthfulness of what was being alleged if the testimony was to be received as true.

The Pharisees, choosing to believe that Christ was bearing witness to Himself, mishandled Deuteronomy 17:6 and Deuteronomy 19:15 in order to reject Christ's claim.

In mishandling these verses and declaring that the witness of Christ was not true, the Pharisees, in essence, attacked Christ's credibility as a witness.

Christ, in responding to the Pharisees attack on His credibility, informed them that He, like any other credible witness, knew the truthfulness of what He had declared firsthand (John 8:14).

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Christ's statement about the ignorance of the Pharisees was not designed to bolster His credibility, but rather to undermine the credibility of the Pharisees' ability to render informed judgment.

The Pharisees' knowledge of Christ was limited to "His flesh," His human appearance. Their ignorance, therefore, rendered them incapable of making sound judgments in respect to Christ.

When Jesus said "I am not judging anyone," He meant that He did not judge anyone the way His opponents did.

In John 8:16, Jesus went from defending Himself as a credible witness to promoting Himself as a credible judge by virtue of the fact that He was not alone in His judgements.

After briefly contrasting His genuine judging with the spurious judging of the Pharisees, Jesus reverted to the main issue in John 8:17-18.

The main issue raised by the Pharisees in John 8:13 that He now reverts to in John 8:17-18 was the legal competency of His testimony regarding Himself.

In contrast to the Pharisees, He applied the truth contained in the Law correctly, and in doing so confirmed His testimony about Himself as true.

The second statement of the Pharisees in response to Christ's claim was, "Where is your Father?" (John 8:19).

"There, but by the grace of God go I."