

*Valley Bible Church – Sermon Notes*

**Sermon Notes for March 19-20, 2005**

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

**John 8:20-30**

We are presently examining John 8:12-59 which is a continuing record of the events associated with the last day of the feast.

The passage began with a claim by Christ that He was 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 8:13-20).

Christ, in John 8:21-30, warned the Pharisees if they did not respond positively to His claim in the here and now, they would be forever separated from Him in the hereafter.

When Jesus spoke of going away, He was speaking about His departure back to His Father (John 7:33).

This seeking after Jesus does not refer to what the Pharisees would do immediately after His earthly departure, but rather what they would do later in the time of their need.

To die in one's sin is to receive the eternal penalty of sin after death.

Jesus was telling the Pharisees that they may not be seeking Him now or even in the near future, but when they suffer the calamities of divine judgment they will.

Though the Pharisees and others, as they suffer the calamities of divine judgment, may seek Jesus, they will not be able to come to Him (Luke 16:19-31).

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Jesus, in John 8:23, explained to the Pharisees why they would not be able to come to Him after they die in their sins. It was because they were from two different realms.

Jesus, who is not of this world, came into this world so that He might throw us a lifeline and all we have to do in order to take advantage of this lifeline is to believe (John 8:24).

The Pharisees' problem was not that they were ignorant of who Christ was, their problem was not believing what they had repeatedly heard (John 8:25).

The unbelieving responses by the Pharisees to the teachings of Christ were so consistent that He equated His teachings with judgments (John 8:26).

Jesus was not pronouncing these judgments against the Pharisees based on His own volition. Jesus only spoke what He heard from His Father who had sent Him (John 8:26).

When John said that the Pharisees did not realize that He had been talking to them about His Father, He simply meant that they had not taken it to heart.

The word "realize" (GINOSKO) denotes a complete and total understanding. This was what the Pharisees lacked.

In John 8:28, Jesus declared that there would be a time when these Pharisees would finally, completely, and totally realize that He did not speak or act on His own.

We need to be careful not to connect the word "when" too closely with the word "then" in John 8:28.

Though the prophetic statement in John 8:28 was not fulfilled immediately at the time of the crucifixion, it certainly will be fulfilled (Philippians 2:9-11).

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At the time of our death, may people know by the way we have lived our lives that we did not wait to seek Christ until it was too late.