

## *Valley Bible Church – Sermon Notes*

### **Sermon Notes for March 26-27, 2005**

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

##### **John 8:31-36**

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

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 was one of unbelief (John 8:13-20).

Jesus, in John 8:21-29, 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.

Many responded to all of what Christ said, including His warning, by making professions of faith (John 8:30).

Jesus responded to these many so-called professions of faith by exposing them as superficial (John 8:31-59).

His first step in exposing their professions as superficial was to explain to them what characterizes the life of someone who has made a genuine profession of faith (John 8:31-36).

Those making genuine professions of faith will abide in the Word of Christ, or in other words, they will persevere in the Word of Christ.

From the context of John 8:31-59, abiding or persevering in His Word implies obedience.

If we interact with Christ's Word as a true disciple, we would first of all know that Christ's Word is truth, not in an academic sense, but in an experiential sense (John 8:32).

Those who come to know Christ's Word as truth, not in an academic sense, but in an experiential sense, will also find that truth setting them free (John 8:32).

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Unfortunately, the Jews, who had just made these so-called professions of faith, struggled with Christ's teaching that the truth would set them free (John 8:33).

They were struggling with Christ's implication that they were in some kind of spiritual bondage and needed to be set free (John 8:33).

Jesus, after explaining to them what He meant by slavery in John 8:34, progressed to the status of slaves in John 8:35-36.

The Jews were slaves. They were the slaves of sin and therefore did not have the rights of the Son nor the security of the Son in God's household (John 8:35).

The Son is Christ and as the Son permanently belongs to the household, or in other words, the household of God (John 8:35).

Jesus not only enjoys inalienable rights as the unique Son of God, but He has the authority given to Him by His Father to liberate slaves (John 8:35).

If, therefore, the Son shall make you free, you shall be free indeed.