



LIGHT FOR THE BLIND JANUARY 13, 1974 LESSON TEXT: John 8:12-20;

John 9. Continuing our studies of Christ's "I am..." statements, we now come to His statement: "I am the Light." This statement, in all it's simplicity, was a statement of fact. It was not boastful, nor was it uttered vaingloriously. Man needed spiritual guidance — and Christ was

sent of God to supply it! To truly ardent students of the Bible it is clear that when Christ prefaced a statement by "I am..." that statement was, in fact, a very personal invitation to each listener. Jesus led his listeners to associate Himself with the necessities of a spiritual life, likened unto the necessities of corporeal life. He would sustain their souls as bread sustained the body; He would warm their hearts and light the soul's stumbling footsteps as heat warmed the flesh, as light illumined the darkness, so that man could see where his path led

Mankind, as a whole, tends to be blind - to not see that which they do not wish to see. In the story of the sightless beggar, Christ made plain the fact that even His dearly loved disciples were blinded by their own prejudices, by their acceptance of the preconceived idea that the sins of the fathers were visited upon the children. Questioned as to whether the man himself had sinned, or whether he was paying for the sins of his parents with his blindness, Christ emphatically disavowed either view, stating that God had a purpose for such an affliction - in this case, that a miracle might be wrought, that some might be converted. (Once again we are confronted with an example of mankind clinging tenaciously to preconceived ideas, while Jesus, on the other hand. brought a broader, more liberal interpretation to His listeners).

Today, in the lives of mankind, there are still many areas of light and of darkness; of right and wrong; of truth vs. deceit

Just as the blind beggar was invited to show his faith by doing, unquestioningly, Christ's bidding, we are invited to exhibit our faith today. The rewards we thus store up for ourselves may not be quite as startling as restored sight, but ...intangible though they may be ... they are nevertheless miraculous! For a lif that is dedicated to the Lord's service, in the name of His Son, enriches the person in ways far beyond worldly concepts. It taps the wells of love and understanding, of great personal warmth; it strengthens the spirit, and spreads joy to those who come in contact with the outgoing personality

Spiritually speaking, generation after generation is born blind; this is the blindness which Christ has dispelled by the disser ination of His knowledge True, our eyes may encompass the wonders of the eart), and of the heavens...but if we do not recognize the source of these wonders, then we do not truly perceive their magnificence For the soul must register their true wortyh! The Christia must see, in sharp focus, the plight of the medy and must ACT to redress that which is wrong; I he is not so motivated, then he is, indeed, spiritually blind!

For this was the essence of Christ's Being...that the world would be richer for the advent of His birth, the example of His life, and the tragedy of His

All this must not be in vain! (Based on copyrighted Outlines produced by the Committee on the Uniform Series and used by per-





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