

Jesus' "I Am" Sayings in John's Gospel

I Am the Light of the World

Sunday, March 20, 2011

Pastor Warner Smith

Message Truth:

The second instance of the "I Am" saying (special word construction of the Greek "to be" verb combined with an emphatic personal pronoun) used by John, to reassure his reader of Christ's divinity, is the assertion that Jesus is the "Light of the World." Jesus' claims have serious consequences for us today. The context of His claims, as well as the claims themselves, are so bold that one must either accept them in their entirety or reject them entirely - there is no middle ground.

Message Text:

¹² When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, "**I am the light of the world.** Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life." ¹³ The Pharisees challenged him, "Here you are, appearing as your own witness; your testimony is not valid." ¹⁴ Jesus answered, "Even if I testify on my own behalf, my testimony is valid, for I know where I came from and where I am going. But you have no idea where I come from or where I am going. ¹⁵ You judge by human standards; I pass judgment on no one . . . ²⁴ I told you that you would die in your sins; if you do not believe that **I am the one I claim to be**, you will indeed die in your sins." ²⁵ "Who are you?" they asked. "Just what I have been claiming all along," Jesus replied. ²⁶ "I have much to say in judgment of you. But he who sent me is reliable, and what I have heard from him I tell the world." ²⁷ They did not understand that he was telling them about his Father. ²⁸ So Jesus said, "When you have lifted up the Son of Man, then you will know that **I am the one I claim to be** and that I do nothing on my own but speak just what the Father has taught me.

John 8:12-15,24-28

Context of the Feast of Tabernacles

During the eight days of the Feast of Tabernacles the Israelites lived in booths made of palm and willow branches to commemorate their living in temporary shelters during their exodus from Egypt. This occurred in October, five days following the day of Atonement, a time when farmers would have been engaged in plowing the soil in preparation for sowing. Josephus referred to this festival as the greatest of the Jewish feasts.

Claim Jesus makes concerning Himself

³ And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light.

⁴ God saw that the light was good, and he separated the light from the darkness. ⁵ God called the light "day," and the darkness he called "night." And there was evening, and there was morning—the first day. Genesis 1:3-5

¹ The LORD is my light and my salvation—whom shall I fear? The LORD is the stronghold of my life—of whom shall I be afraid? Psalm 27:1

⁴ In him was life, and that life was the light of men. ⁵ The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not understood it. John 1:4-5

1. Without C _____ to light our way we live in d _____.

2. The light Jesus provides is for a _____ the w _____.

⁵ This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you: God is light; in him there is no darkness at all. ⁶ If we claim to have fellowship with him yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live by the truth. ⁷ But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin. 1 John 1:5-7

3. H _____ u _____ is inferior to God's
j _____.

¹² There is a way which seems right to a man, But its end is the way of death. Proverbs 14:12 (NASB)

Previously Jesus had called five witnesses to testify to His legitimacy.

John 5:31-47

1. Himself
2. John the Baptist
3. His works
4. His Father
5. Scripture

Because of the Pharisees' lack of understanding of these questions, they are blind and therefore not qualified to render judgment concerning Him.

Consequences of Jesus' Claim for Us

²⁴ I told you that you would die in your sins; if you do not believe that **I am the one I claim to be**, you will indeed die in your sins." ²⁵ "Who are you?" they asked. "Just what I have been claiming all along," Jesus replied. John 8:24-25

4. If you do not b _____ in Jesus you will
d _____ in your s _____.

5. What specifically must you believe?

That Jesus is "I A ____" the one I c _____ to be.

⁴ The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. ⁵ For we do not preach ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, and ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake. ⁶ For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," made his light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ. 2 Corinthians 4:4-6