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1 Corinthians

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Jesus: The Light of the World

In John chapter 8 Jesus declares that “…I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life” (John 8:12, KJV). This is an “I am” statement that is found throughout the book of John. Jesus, by declaring that He is “the light” of the world, bears record or witness of Himself in this world. What exactly does bearing record of one’s self mean in reference to being the “light of the world?

The Holy Spirit tells us in the Gospel of John, verses 6 and 7 of chapter 1, that God sent John the Baptist to “…bear witness of the Light…”. The Gospel of John goes on to say in chapter 1 verse 34 that “And I (John the baptist) saw, and bear record that this is the Son of God.” Jesus tells us in John chapter 7 in verses 28 and 29, when in the Temple teaching, saying, “Ye both know me, and ye know whence I am: and I am not come of myself, but (H)e that sent me is true, whom ye know not,” and in verse 29, “But I know (H)im: for I am from (H)im, and (H)e hath sent me.” So when the Pharisees say in verse 13 that by bearing record of (H)imself, (H)is record was not true [possibly thinking of, and mistaking His earthly father, Joseph, which means they would be judging by the flesh (verse 19), and blinded to the truth of the “light” of Christ], Jesus reminds them in verse 17 that it is “written in your law that the testimony of two men is true,” referring to Deuteronomy chapter 17 verse 6. So who is the other entity that bears witness to who Christ is, who claims to be “the light of the world?” The next verse gives the answer. In verse 18 Jesus says “I am one that bear witness of myself, and the Father that sent me beareth witness of (M)e.

Christ goes on to solidify (H)is position in verse 47 of the Gospel of John which says “He that is of God heareth God’s words: ye therefore hear *them* not, because ye are not of God. The Pharisees were in darkness and therefore condemned as all mankind is as obeserved in chapter 3 verses 18,19 of John which says “He that believeth on (H)im is not condemned: but he that believeth not, is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.” Verse 19 continues, “And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil.

So by Christ bearing witness of Himself he is telling us that by coming from the “bosom” of the Father that He is the light of the Father, which dwells in Him, the Son, and as long as Jesus is in the world, He is the light of the world (John 9:5).