

ANOTHER DAY OF CONTROVERSY

John 8:12-27

(John 8:12-27), “Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life. {13} The Pharisees therefore said unto him, Thou bearest record of thyself; thy record is not true. {14} Jesus answered and said unto them, Though I bear record of myself, yet my record is true: for I know whence I came, and whither I go; but ye cannot tell whence I come, and whither I go. {15} Ye judge after the flesh; I judge no man. {16} And yet if I judge, my judgment is true: for I am not alone, but I and the Father that sent me. {17} It is also written in your law, that the testimony of two men is true. {18} I am one that bear witness of myself, and the Father that sent me beareth witness of me. {19} Then said they unto him, Where is thy Father? Jesus answered, Ye neither know me, nor my Father: if ye had known me, ye should have known my Father also. {20} These words spake Jesus in the treasury, as he taught in the temple: and no man laid hands on him; for his hour was not yet come. {21} Then said Jesus again unto them, I go my way, and ye shall seek me, and shall die in your sins: whither I go, ye cannot come. {22} Then said the Jews, Will he kill himself? because he saith, Whither I go, ye cannot come. {23} And he said unto them, Ye are from beneath; I am from above: ye are of this world; I am not of this world. {24} I said therefore unto you, that ye shall die in your sins: for if ye believe not that I am he, ye shall die in your sins. {25} Then said they unto him, Who art thou? And Jesus saith unto them, Even the same that I said unto you from the beginning. {26} I have many things to say and to judge of you: but he that sent me is true; and I speak to the world those things which I have heard of him. {27} They understood not that he spake to them of the Father.”



JOHN 8 IS THE RECORD OF an intense conversation between Jesus and the religious leaders of His day. The Pharisees’ challenge of Jesus **resulted in JESUS TELLING WHO HE WAS. THE PHARISEES** specifically asked Jesus, **“WHO ARE YOU?”** (v. 25). That is a question that **EVERY PERSON SHOULD ASK** and that **EVERY PERSON SHOULD ANSWER**. It is **one of life’s most important questions**.

IN JOHN 8 JESUS HIMSELF TELLS US WHO HE IS. It is one thing to have someone else tell you whom they think Jesus is. It is quite another thing for Jesus Himself to tell you who He is.

TAKEN AT FACE VALUE, WHAT JESUS SAID ABOUT HIMSELF IS ASTONISHING. HAD ANY PERSON OTHER THAN JESUS spoken the words in John 8, they would have been laughed off the planet. But we take what Jesus said **AT FACE VALUE** because His **life, death, burial** and **resurrection** demand that we do so. All those things corroborated everything Jesus ever said and did. Someone has stated that **JESUS’ RESURRECTION WAS GOD’S AMEN** to everything Jesus ever said and did.

BILLY GRAHAM once stated, “If Jesus is who He claimed to be, the most important thing a person will ever do is get to know Him.”

Time will not permit a complete examination of the entire conversation between Jesus and the Pharisees in this one message. Thus, in this message, we will focus on **FOUR THINGS** that Jesus said about Himself as He answered the question, **“Who art thou?”** (V. 25).

- I. JESUS IS **THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD**
- II. JESUS IS **THE BEARER OF GOD’S TRUE RECORD**
- III. JESUS IS **FROM HEAVEN ABOVE**
- IV. JESUS IS **GOD WHO NEVER CHANGES**

I. JESUS IS THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD

(V. 12), “Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.”

CONSIDER VERSE 12 DIVIDED INTO FOUR PARTS:

#1. “I AM”

- S** THIS IS **THE SECOND OF SEVEN “I AM” STATEMENTS** SPOKEN BY JESUS that are recorded in the Book of John.
- (1) “I am the **BREAD** of life” (6:35)
 - (2) “I am the **LIGHT** of the world” (8:12)

- (3) "I am the **DOOR**" (10:9)
- (4) "I am the **GOOD SHEPHERD**" (10:11)
- (5) "I am the **RESURRECTION, AND THE LIFE**" (11:25)
- (6) "I am **THE WAY, THE TRUTH, AND THE LIFE**" (14:6)
- (7) "I am the **VINE**" (15:5)

S It appears that Jesus **linked Himself back** with what God said to Moses at the burning bush. When God told Moses to go back to Egypt to deliver Israel from the hand of Pharaoh, **Moses asked** God a question. Moses wanted to know what name to call God when Israel asked in Egypt. **God's answer** to Moses was:

C (**Exo 3:14**), "And God said unto Moses, **I AM** (haw-yaw) **THAT I AM** (haw-yaw): and he said, Thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel, **I AM** (haw-yaw) hath sent me unto you."

C "**HAW-YAW**" IS THE HEBREW VERB FOR **BEING**. It means "**to exist,**" "**to be,**" and can be understood to mean "**GOD IS WHO HE IS.**" God simply described Himself as "**THE ONE WHO IS.**"

C From various forms of this word comes the name **JEHOVAH**. INTERESTING is the fact that THE NAME "**JESUS**" means "**JEHOVAH IS SALVATION**"

#1. "I AM"

#2. "THE LIGHT"

S Jesus did not just say He was "a light." **JESUS SAID HE IS "THE LIGHT."** **THE DEFINITE ARTICLE** precedes the word "**light.**" Jesus said He was "**THE LIGHT.**" **THE LOGICAL QUESTION IS,** "If Jesus is **the light,** then which light is He?"

S **THE CONTEXT** in which Jesus spoke those words is helpful in answering that question. Jesus made that statement while **IN JERUSALEM** the day following the Feast of

Tabernacles. You may recall that the Feast of Tabernacles was **designed to remind** Israel of God's **protection** and **provision** during their years in the wilderness.

C **In chapter seven,** during the Feast of Tabernacles, Jesus had referred to "**living water**" (v. 38). Jesus was likely referencing Israel's experience in the wilderness when God told Moses to hit a rock with his rod. God caused water to flow from that rock even though it was in a dry and barren desert.

C **In chapter 8,** even though it records the events of the day following the Feast of Tabernacles, there is **good reason to believe** that Jesus was again referencing Israel's wilderness experience. This time Jesus was referring to **the light that God provided** Israel while traveling through the wilderness.

C **THE FIRST RECORD** of God's miraculous provision of light for Israel in the wilderness is recorded in the Book of Exodus. It uses the word "light."
(Exo 13:21), "And the LORD went before them by day in a pillar of a cloud, to lead them the way; and by night in a **PILLAR OF FIRE, TO GIVE THEM LIGHT;** to go by day and night:"

C **PSALMS** USES THE WORD "LIGHT" TO DESCRIBE GOD'S PRESENCE IN THE CLOUD.

(Psa 78:14), "In the daytime also he led them with a cloud, and all the night with **A LIGHT OF FIRE.**"

S **GOD'S MIRACULOUS LIGHT SERVED A THREEFOLD PURPOSE.**

(1) It served as a twenty-four hour a day reminder of **GOD'S PRESENCE** in Israel's midst. If Israel doubted God's presence, all they had to do was to look up and observe the testimony of God's presence. God's presence in that cloud was manifest both day and by night.

- (2) The pillar of fire also served as **A PROTECTION FOR ISRAEL**. When Israel was pursued by Pharaoh and his army, the pillar of fire stood between Israel and the Egyptian army. It also protected Israel from the destructive elements associated with a barren wilderness.
- (3) The cloud also **GUIDED ISRAEL** through the wilderness for forty years. When the cloud **moved**, Israel was to move with it. When the cloud **stood still**, Israel was to camp until it moved again. Israel would never go wrong if they simply followed the cloud of God's light because God was in the cloud. God Himself was the source of the light.

S "LIGHT" IS OFTEN ASSOCIATED WITH GOD IN THE BIBLE.

C GOD'S THRONE (Ezek. 1:4, 27 - "fire," "brightness")

C BURNING BUSH (Ex 3:2 - "flame of fire," "burned with fire")

C MOUNT SINAI (Ex 24:17 - "glory," "devouring fire")

C (Psa 27:1), "The LORD is MY LIGHT and MY SALVATION . . ."

S ISAIAH PROPHESED the coming of the Lord Jesus by describing a great light that would shine **in Galilee** (Isa 9:1-2).

#1. "I AM"

#2. "THE LIGHT"

#3. "OF THE WORLD"

S JESUS WENT BEYOND THE CLAIM of being a light to the nation of Israel, by claiming to be the light of the whole world.

S THAT IS AN ASTONISHING CLAIM! Jesus claimed to be the light **OF THE WORLD**. **TAKEN AT FACE VALUE**, that means that **JESUS IS** the light for **Israel, China, Australia, Brazil, Iceland, etc.** Jesus is light for all people of all nations! **JESUS IS** the light of the Tri-Cities, Finely, Walla Walla, Othello, etc. **Education** is not the light of the world. **Wealth** is not the light of the world. **JESUS CLAIMS** to be the light of the world!

S THAT IS AN AMAZING CLAIM! What does a person do with a person like Jesus who makes such a claim as to be the light of the world?

S C. S. LEWIS is the author of the wonderful book titled *Mere Christianity*. The story of his conversion to Jesus Christ is recorded in his book titled **Surprised by Joy**. He was a Professor at Oxford University. For years he was a skeptic and agnostic. He denied the deity of Christ until he was saved.

"A man who was merely a man and said the sort of things Jesus said wouldn't be a great moral teacher. He would either be a lunatic on the level with a man who says he's a poached egg - or else he would be the devil of hell; you must take your choice. Either this was, and is, the Son of God, or else a madman or something worse. You can shut Him up for a demon; or you can fall at His feet and call Him Lord and God. But don't come up with any patronizing nonsense about His being a great moral teacher. He hasn't left that alternative open to us."

#1. "I AM"

#2. "THE LIGHT"

#3. "OF THE WORLD"

#4. "HE THAT FOLLOWETH ME SHALL NOT WALK IN DARKNESS, BUT SHALL HAVE THE LIGHT OF LIFE"

S NOTE CAREFULLY THAT JESUS LINKED THE WORD "LIGHT" WITH THE WORD "LIFE."

C (V. 12), ". . . He that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but SHALL HAVE THE LIGHT OF LIFE."

S THE CONNECTION BETWEEN “LIFE” AND “LIGHT” IS NOT COINCIDENTAL. Those two words are linked in other Scriptures.

C (John 1:4), “In him was **LIFE**; and the **LIFE** was the **LIGHT** of men.”

S DURING THE FEAST OF TABERNACLES there was **A WONDERFUL DISPLAY OF LIGHTS.** In the temple area were **FOUR HUGE CANDELABRA** more than **75 feet high.** Each candle had four branches with **bowls** at the top of each arm that held more than **10 gallons of oil.** The light from these candles was so bright it could be seen from every location in Jerusalem. These four great **MENORAHS** were lit at the **Feast of Tabernacles** as a reminder of **THE PILLAR OF FIRE** that had guided Israel in their wilderness journey. (These candelabra were also lit at **Hanukkah** as a reminder of God’s deliverance of Israel from the Syrians during the period of time between the O.T. and N.T.). **TRADITION RECORDS** that upon seeing the light, the people would sing these words:

"Our ancestors turned their backs on the Temple of the Lord, but our eyes are on the Lord." (From *That the World May Know* by Ray Vander Laan)

S Following the Feast of Tabernacles, the light from the huge candles was **extinguished.** The light from those candles was only **temporary** and could be enjoyed for only a short time.

S Jesus provided a more lasting light, **THE LIGHT OF LIFE.** The light of life is a light that is never extinguished.

GOD **STILL PROVIDES** the “LIGHT OF LIFE” through the Lord Jesus Christ. The “LIGHT OF LIFE” is experienced when a person comes by faith to the Lord Jesus Christ and receives Him as personal Lord and Savior.

If you, or someone you know, is having a hard time finding life’s way, it is important to understand that Jesus is **“THE LIGHT OF LIFE.”** Jesus will give you direction through this world’s uncertainties.

II. JESUS IS THE BEARER OF GOD’S TRUE RECORD

S PEOPLE ARE NATURALLY ATTRACTED TO LIGHT.

- (1) When you take **LITTLE BOYS CAMPING** they are naturally attracted to the fire. They love to gather around the camp fire and poke it with sticks.
- (2) When **MOSES** was out tending his sheep, He saw a bush that was on fire but that was not consumed. He naturally drew close to it in order to examine it.

S WHEN GOD’S “LIGHT” (i.e., the Lord Jesus) was presented in the temple nearly two thousand years ago, many were naturally attracted to Him. **PUZZLING THOUGH** is the fact that others **sought to destroy Him.** Most puzzling was the fact that they were religious.

S That stands as **a horrible, but accurate, commentary** on human nature. On the one hand, we indicated we wanted God in our midst. On the other hand, we sought to extinguish His light when He showed up. We attacked Him rather than received Him.

C (John 1:11), “He came unto his own, and his own received him not.”

C (John 3:19-21), “And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and **men loved darkness rather than light,** because their deeds were evil. {20} For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reproved. {21} But he that doeth truth cometh to the light, that his deeds may be made manifest, that they are wrought in God.”

S The Pharisees **wanted to destroy** Jesus, but “. . . **No man laid hands on him; for his hour was not yet come**” (V. 20). Because they could **NOT DESTROY JESUS,** they did the next best thing, they tried to **DISCREDIT HIM.** They **challenged Him** on every front.

(V. 13), "The Pharisees therefore said unto him, Thou bearest record of thyself; thy record is not true."

S IT APPEARS the Pharisees were applying truths from **Deuteronomy 17:6, 19:15** and **Numbers 35:30**. Those verses required at least two witnesses for an accused person to be convicted of a crime worthy of the **death penalty**. The Pharisees applied those verses to Jesus' testimony. They claimed that since there was no way to validate Jesus' testimony, they were **obligated to reject** what He had to say.

S NO DOUBT ABOUT IT, IT IS ALWAYS HELPFUL to have more than one witness. But the presence of only one witness **does not automatically negate** what a person has to say. For example, **JUST SUPPOSE** you claimed to be the child of John and Sue. Suppose that someone challenged your claim because you were the only person present making such a claim. The fact that you alone made that claim, **would not invalidate** what you said. Even though you were **not able to corroborate** your statement on the spot, it would still be true none-the-less.

S That appears to be the case that Jesus makes regarding the Pharisee's charge against Him.

C (V. 14), "Jesus answered and said unto them, Though I bear record of myself, **YET MY RECORD IS TRUE . . .** "

C JESUS FOLLOWS THAT STATEMENT BY GIVING **FOUR REASONS** WHY HIS RECORD COULD BE TRUSTED:

#1. JESUS KNEW WHO HE WAS

(V. 14), ". . . For I know whence I came, and whither I go; but ye cannot tell whence I come, and whither I go."

S JESUS' KNOWLEDGE regarding who He was, **WAS SUPERIOR** to their knowledge regarding who He was.

S Their **heads** must have been **spinning** as they asked themselves, "**O.K., where did he COME FROM and where is he GOING?**"

(1) WHERE WAS JESUS FROM? JESUS WAS FROM HEAVEN

C (Mat 1:23), "Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name **EMMANUEL**, which being interpreted is, '**GOD WITH US.**'"

C (Phil 2:6-7), "Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: {7} But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men:"

(2) WHERE WAS JESUS GOING? JESUS WAS GOING TO THE CROSS, GRAVE, TOMB, RESURRECTION, ASCENSION AND BACK TO HEAVEN

C (Phil 2:8-11), "And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and **became obedient unto death**, even the death of the cross. {9} Wherefore God also hath **highly exalted him**, and given him a name which is above every name: {10} That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; {11} And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father."

S JESUS WAS NOT JUST ANOTHER RELIGIOUS ZEALOT.

C (John 1:1), "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God."

C (John 1:14), "And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth."

#1. JESUS KNEW WHO HE WAS

#2. JESUS' JUDGMENT WAS IMPARTIAL and UNBIASED

(V. 15), "Ye judge after the flesh; I judge no man."

S The word "**flesh**," like so many other words, can have more than one meaning. **Webster's Dictionary** indicates that "flesh" can refer to the skin on a person's bones. That was not the way Jesus used the word "flesh." The word "flesh" in the Bible often refers to **sinful human nature** (1 John 2:16).

S **THE PHARISEES** judgment of Jesus was inherently flawed because of the spiritual disease called sin. Their sinful nature **hindered** and **skewed** their ability to judge accurately. Rather than being impartial in their judgment, they were **partial** and **biased**. They had their **minds made up** before they ever heard the evidence.

S **THE TRUTH IS** that all humanity is affected by the *flesh* problem called sin. As a result, **at our very best**, we all find it difficult to make impartial and unbiased judgment. In fact, **apart from God's help**, all of us would come to the wrong conclusion about Jesus. Apart from God's help, people are incapable of coming to the knowledge of truth.

C (Jer 17:9), "The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?"

C (Mat 16:17), "... Blessed art thou, Simon Barjona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven."

IN CONTRAST TO THE PHARISEE'S BIASED JUDGMENT, JESUS' JUDGMENT WAS TOTALLY IMPARTIAL. His judgment was impartial because He was sinless. Jesus was **not tainted** by the dark side of sin.

(V. 15), "Ye judge after the flesh; **I JUDGE NO MAN.**"

C **Does that mean** that Jesus judges without bias?

C **Or, does that mean** that Jesus has deferred His judgment until eternity? Is Jesus restating the truth found in John 3? (John 3:17), "For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved."

S **IT IS AMAZING** how convinced we sinful human beings are that when God comes among us, He does so in order to condemn us. As a result, **LIKE ADAM and EVE**, we are inclined to run and hide from God thinking He cannot see us. We hide because we are convinced that He has come among us in order to judge and condemn us. The truth is that God comes among us in order to save us.

#1. JESUS KNEW WHO HE WAS

#2. JESUS' JUDGMENT IS **IMPARTIAL AND UNBIASED**

#3. JESUS' WITNESS IS TRUE

(V. 16a), "And yet if I judge, my judgment **IS TRUE**: . . . "

S In the **UPPER ROOM** that night before His crucifixion, Jesus spoke to the disciples regarding the truth.

(John 14:6), "Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, **THE TRUTH**, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me."

S **IF YOU WANT TO KNOW THE TRUTH, LISTEN TO JESUS!** Jesus never lies!

(Num 23:19), "God is not a man, that he should lie; . . . "

#1. JESUS KNEW WHO HE WAS

#2. JESUS' JUDGMENT IS **IMPARTIAL AND UNBIASED**

#3. JESUS' **WITNESS IS TRUE**

#4. THE FATHER CORROBORATED JESUS' WITNESSES

(IN OTHER WORDS, THERE WERE TWO WITNESSES)

(V. 16-18), "... For I am **not alone**, but I and **the Father** that sent me. {17} It is also written in your law, that the testimony of two men is true. {18} **I am one** that bear witness of myself, and **the Father** that sent me beareth witness of me."

S WHAT AN **AMAZING CLAIM!** The Pharisees had earlier tried to kill Jesus for making similar statement.

(John 5:17-18), "But Jesus answered them, My Father worketh hitherto, and I work. {18} Therefore the Jews sought the more to kill him, because he not only had broken the Sabbath, but said also that God was his Father, making himself equal with God."

S ON AT LEAST TWO OCCASIONS in Jesus' ministry the Heavenly Father gave **VERBAL APPROVAL** from Heaven concerning Jesus.

(1) **AT JESUS' BAPTISM**

(Mat 3:17), "And lo a voice from heaven, saying, 'This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.'"

(2) **AT THE TRANSFIGURATION**

(Mark 9:7), "And there was a cloud that overshadowed them: and a voice came out of the cloud, saying, 'This is my beloved Son: hear him.'"

THE PHARISEES WERE **NOT** ABOUT TO LET JESUS' CLAIM THAT GOD WAS HIS FATHER GO **UNCHALLENGED**. They **did not believe for a moment** that Jesus had the right to call the God of heaven His father (John 5:18). So, they asked **a question** that was **designed to discredit** Jesus in the eyes of the crowd.

(V. 19a), "Then said they unto him, **WHERE IS THY FATHER? . . .** "

S THE ESSENCE OF THAT QUESTION WAS AN **INSULT TO JESUS. THE PHARISEES KNEW** they couldn't kill Jesus, so they sought to **discredit Him**.

S Their accusation was **SUBTLE** and very **DEMEANING**. They implied, for the sake of the crowd, that Jesus was of illegitimate birth.

C (John 8:41), "Ye do the deeds of your father. Then said they to him, We be not born of fornication; we have one Father, even God."

C They had probably heard the sacred and holy story of Jesus being conceived by the Holy Spirit and twisted it in an attempt to slander and malign Jesus.

JESUS **ACCURATELY ASSESSED** THE HEART OF THE PHARISEES (V. 19b), "... Jesus answered, Ye neither know me, nor my Father: if ye had known me, ye should have known my Father also."

S JESUS KNEW THAT **WHEN PEOPLE REFUSED TO COME TO HIM**, it was because they had refused to come to the Father. **IF** people **RESPONDED TO HIM**, it was because they **HAD RESPONDED TO THE FATHER**. It was really just that simple. If they accepted the Father, then they **accepted** the Son. If they **rejected** the Father, then they rejected the Son. **THE REASON** they would not accept Jesus was because they had rejected the Father.

S JUST BECAUSE CERTAIN PEOPLE ARE **RELIGIOUS AUTHORITIES** does not mean they are necessarily rightly related to Jesus. Religious people were included in the list Jesus expounded in Matthew 7.

(Mat 7:21-23), "Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. {22} Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? {23} And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity."

WHO IS JESUS?

- I. JESUS IS **THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD**
- II. JESUS IS **THE BEARER OF GOD'S TRUE RECORD**

III. JESUS IS FROM HEAVEN ABOVE

(V. 21), "Then said Jesus again unto them, I go my way, and ye shall seek me, and shall die in your sins: whither I go, ye cannot come."

(V. 22), "Then said the Jews, Will he kill himself? because he saith, Whither I go, ye cannot come."

S (1 Cor 2:14), "But **THE NATURAL MAN** receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are **FOOLISHNESS UNTO HIM**: neither can he know them, because they are **SPIRITUALLY DISCERNED**."

S THE PHARISEES DID **NOT HAVE A CLUE** what Jesus was talking about. If they did, they refused to accept it. The truth is they did not want to know what Jesus was talking about. In another attempt to discredit Jesus, THEY ACCUSED JESUS OF **THREATENING SUICIDE**. In Jewish thinking, committing suicide meant consignment in the lowest part of Hades.

JESUS RESPONDED TO THE PHARISEES

(V. 23-24), "Ye are from beneath; I am from above: ye are of this world; I am not of this world. {24} I said therefore unto you, that ye shall die in your sins: for if ye believe not that I am he, ye shall die in your sins."

S JESUS KNEW **WHO He was**, and **WHERE He was from** and **WHERE He was going**. Jesus was from heaven. He was the Son of God, God in human flesh (John 1:1,14). He was going to the **cross, grave, resurrection, ascension and heaven**.

S **IN LIKE MANNER**, Jesus also knew **WHO** the Pharisees **were**, **WHERE** they were **from**, and **WHERE** they were **going**.

C (John 8:44), "Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning,

and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it."

C **THE PHARISEES, TOO**, were going to the **grave**, but they were not going to heaven after that. Jesus said, "Ye shall die in your sins: for if ye believe not that I am he, ye shall die in your sin" (V. 24). In essence, Jesus told the Pharisees they were going to hell.

S THERE ARE **TWO WAYS TO DIE**.

(1) A PERSON CAN DIE WITH THEIR SINS FORGIVEN BY THE LORD JESUS.

(1 John 1:7), "But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin."

(2) A PERSON CAN **DIE IN THEIR SINS**. If a person dies in his sins, he will spend eternity in hell. If that sounds a bit too blunt, remember that the loving Son of God, the Lord Jesus Christ, said more about hell than any other person in the Bible. JESUS SAID OF HELL:

(Mat 10:28), "And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell."

- I. JESUS IS **THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD**
- II. JESUS IS **THE BEARER OF GOD'S TRUE RECORD**
- III. JESUS IS **FROM HEAVEN ABOVE**

IV. JESUS IS GOD WHO NEVER CHANGES

THE PHARISEES ASKED JESUS:

(V. 25a), "... 'WHO ART THOU?' ... "

JESUS SAID TO THEM: **(V. 25b)**

(V. 25b), “. . . EVEN THE SAME THAT I SAID UNTO YOU FROM THE BEGINNING.”

S One unique characteristic of truth is that **IT NEVER CHANGES!** Truth is always the same. It never needs updating. If something was true **six thousand years ago**, it is still true today. If it is true today, it will still be true six thousand years from now. If by chance we discover in ten thousand years that something isn't true, then it never was true. We may have thought it was true, but that was an inaccurate assumption.

S Jesus didn't come with one message one day, and a different message the next day. Jesus always spoke the same message because Jesus always spoke the truth.

C **(Heb 13:8)**, “Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever.”

C **(Mal 3:6)**, “For I am the LORD, **I CHANGE NOT**; . . . ”

S THE **STORY IS TOLD OF A MAN WHO WENT TO VISIT AN OLD FRIEND, A MUSIC TEACHER.**

C The man said to the music teacher,
“What's the good news?”

C Without saying a word, the old man went across the room and picked up a tuning fork and struck it with his hammer. As the tone filled the air, he commented,
“That is A. It is A today, it was A five thousand years ago, and it will be A ten thousand years from now. The soprano upstairs sings off-key, the tenor across the hall flats his high notes, and the piano downstairs is out of tune.”

He stuck the tuning fork a second time and said again,
“That is an A, my friend, and that's the good news for today!”

(Retold by Ray Stedman in *Spiritual Warfare*, pg 77)

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- IV. JESUS IS **GOD WHO NEVER CHANGES**

(John 8:26-27), “I have many things to say and to judge of you: but he that sent me is true; and I speak to the world those things which I have heard of him. {27} **THEY UNDERSTOOD NOT** that he spake to them of the Father.”

C After all that Jesus had to say, they still did not understand? The reason for their inability to understand Jesus is found in 1 Corinthians. **(1 Cor 2:14)**, “But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.”

C **BILLY GRAHAM**

“If Jesus is who He claimed to be, the most important thing a person will ever do is get to know Him.”