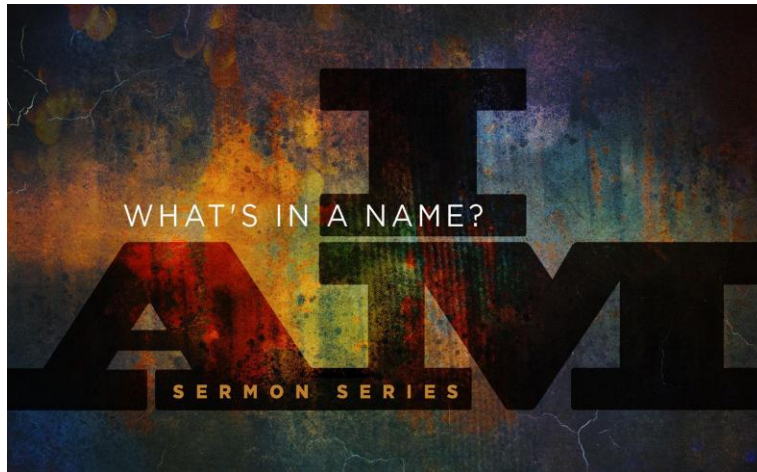




Series Introduction: We are in a 9-week journey through the gospel of John and into a deeper understanding of who Jesus is and what that means for us. This series is a comprehensive look at the **"I AM"** (God is YHWH) statements of Christ in the New Testament. We're discovering how his declarations about his identity trace its roots back to the Old Testament. Together, these lessons offer a multi-faceted view of Jesus, the ways he impacts everyday life – our struggles, fears, questions, hopes, and dreams!

Message 4: **"I AM THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD"**

John 8:12

Lesson Introduction: Each of these "I AM" statements in John tell us something about Jesus' understanding of himself and why God sent him to earth. These statements are an echo of the ancient name of God given to Moses (YHWH). So, Jesus is doing more than understanding himself; he is revealing different aspects of his character to identify to the people that Jesus is God's Son, the promised Messiah. In the opening of John's book, he alludes to today's declaration by Jesus as the "Light of the World" in John 1:1-9. Then in John 8: 12, Jesus verbalizes this truth in a very direct way to the Pharisees who were questioning his identity, character, and teachings.

1. UNDERSTAND THE _____ OF WHERE HE WAS AT THAT TIME. 7:1-52

- Jesus attends the Feast of the Tabernacles, a Jewish festival. Vss. 1-13
 - This feast celebrated God's blessings during the Exodus, including God's "fire at night".
 - They would light four great candelabra in the courtyard of the temple as a memorial.
 - When he made his statement later in the Feast, it was him saying, "God's presence is now here!"
- While at the feast in secret, he uses an opportunity to teach and amazes his hearers. Vss. 14-24
- He causes great controversy about his identity with some believing; others wanting him dead. Vss. 25-53

2. UNDERSTAND THE IMAGE OF _____ WAS CLEAR. 8:12

- The promise of a Messiah in Isaiah 9:2 – *"The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned."* (note verse 6 in connection)
- And now in the face of the doubting Pharisees, he declares himself as the image of God as "Light" shining in darkness. "The Great I AM" has now sent the "Light-Bearer"!

3. UNDERSTAND THE AWESOME _____ WE ARE GIVEN. Matthew 5:14-16

In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus had given a strong clue as to his identity and his followers as well!

As believers in Christ, we have the same calling and ability to bring light into the dark places of our world!

So, let's reflect on the concept of light which applied to Jesus first and then to us as we obey him.

Qualities of Light

- Light is a _____ force, rather than negative.
- Light casts a _____ larger than itself.
- Light has an _____ greater than the darkness.

Purposes of Light

- Be a _____ source of light.
- Be an _____ source of light.
- Be a light that calls attention to _____.