

## **THEME: KNOWING AND LIVING THE TRUTH**

### **Walking in the Light: 1 John 1:5-2:2**

February 18, 2018

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 and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live out 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. (It is as we walk in the light that sins are exposed).*

8. *If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.*

9. *If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.*

10. *If we claim we have not sinned, we make Him out to be a liar and His word is not in us.*

2:1: *My dear children, I write this to you so that you will not sin. But if anybody does sin, we have an Advocate with the Father – Jesus Christ, the Righteous One.*

2. *He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world. (NIV).*

#### **Introduction:**

(Maybe wear the headlamp as I go up)

Last week John introduced us to Jesus – the physical, flesh and blood, Jesus Christ. He made a strong case for Jesus coming in the flesh, by using a fair amount of repetition.

We have heard, seen and touched Him, He appeared to us.

John had passed onto these folks in present day Turkey what Jesus had taught him – some of them had become followers of Jesus. Over time false teaching began to creep into the churches and eventually some of these false teachers left the church.

John is writing this letter to challenge the false teachers. But also to point those who remain to the truth about Jesus.

Now beginning with verse 5 John is going to zero in on a specific statement that they have heard from the Word of Life – Jesus, when He walked with them.

**Verse 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.* Original literally says: “darkness is not in Him never.” John is saying: this is what we heard from Jesus – the Word of Life; the Eternal One, the Life:

**John 1:4-9:** *In Him was life, and the life was the **light** of men. The **light** shines in the **darkness**, and the **darkness** has not overcome it.*

*There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light.*

*The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world.*

John 8:12: Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, "I am the **light** of the world. Whoever follows Me will not walk in **darkness**, but will have the **light** of life."

John 9:1-5: As He passed by, He saw a man blind from birth. And His disciples asked Him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" Jesus answered, "It was not that this man sinned, or his parents, but that the works of God might be displayed in him. We must work the works of Him who sent Me while it is day; night is coming, when no one can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the **light** of the world."

John 12:35-36: So Jesus said to them, "The **light** is among you for a little while longer. Walk while you have the **light**, lest **darkness** overtake you. The one who walks in the **darkness** does not know where he is going. While you have the **light**, believe in the **light**, that you may become sons of **light**."

### WALKING IN THE LIGHT: 1:5-2:2

5: God is Light

6-7: Jesus Purifies Us

8-9: God is faithful and just

1:10-2:2: Jesus is Righteous and Advocates for us

Verse 5: God is Light: This is the message we have heard from Him and declare to you: God is **light**; in Him there is no **darkness** at all.

This verse, becomes the key that unlocks the next several verses (1:5-2:2).

John's is going to use it as a light to illuminate the truth about God – about the character of God.

It is the lens that help us us to clearly see the difference between falsehood and truth; between Light and darkness.

In the following verses we will find 6 statements, all beginning with "if". They are all hinged back to this verse, where we discover that God is light and there is absolutely no darkness in Him. He is totally holy and pure.

It is exactly because God is light and that there is no darkness in Him that John is able to shine the light of the truth on claims that the false teachers were making.

**The light of God's truth reveals the darkness of these claims.**

The next several verses look like a true and false exam. There are 3 false statements and 3 true statements – again all beginning with "if."

John will shine the Light of truth on them to discern whether they are true or false.

John has a standard by which to judge what the truth is: *God is light and in Him there is no darkness at all.*

**FALSE: If we claim to have fellowship with Him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live out the truth. WE HAVE FELLOWSHIP WITH HIM**

**TRUE: 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. (It is as we walk in the light that sins are exposed).**

**FALSE:** If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.

**WE ARE WITHOUT SIN**

**TRUE:** If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

**FALSE:** If we claim we have not sinned, we make Him out to be a liar and His word is not in us. **WE HAVE NOT SINNED**

**TRUE:** if anybody does sin, we have an Advocate with the Father – Jesus Christ, the Righteous One.

He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world.

**Darkness:** those who walk in darkness are saying: We have fellowship with Him; we are sinless – we have not sinned.

**Light:** John who is walking in the light says, you are walking in darkness; you are lying and are not living out the truth;

you are deceiving yourself and the truth is not in you;

you are calling God a liar and His Word is not in you.

Very strong statements! It is obvious that John believes in absolutes. Some things are the truth and some things are a lie.

John does not simply point out the problem; but He points to the solution.

**Sin is at the heart of the problem and Jesus is at the heart of the solution.**

We will see from each of John's responses to falsehood that we can live pure and righteous lives. Jesus, the Light of the world, has come to make that possible. As John looks at each of these claims he then puts them under the microscope of the truth – he exposes them to the Light: **Three truths from the Light:**

1. the blood of Jesus, His Son, purifies us from **all sin** (7).
2. He is faithful and just and will forgive us **our sins** and purify us from **all unrighteousness** (9).
3. He is the atoning sacrifice for **our sins** (2:2),

In each of these 3 statements, he points to Jesus; to Jesus' blood, to Jesus' sacrifice – to the Cross.

He is the only Solution to the problem of sin and evil.

What incredible news: **Luke 2:10-11:** I bring you good news of great joy, which shall be to all the people. Unto you is born this day in the city of David a **Saviour** – He is Christ the Lord.

**Matthew 1:21** Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you shall call His name Jesus for He will save His people from their sins.

Jesus is the only Saviour of the world!!!

This is great news!

**Verses 6-7: Jesus Purifies Us**

6.If we claim to have fellowship with Him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live out 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.

Last week we looked at verse 3: *we proclaim what we have seen and heard so that you also may have fellowship with us and our fellowship is with the Father and His Son, Jesus Christ.*

This is true fellowship both with the Father and His Son and with followers of Jesus. Some of these false teachers claimed to have fellowship with God.

It is easier to talk than it is to walk the talk. Notice in v. 7 he says *if we walk in the light as He is in the Light, we have fellowship with one another.*

**Another way of saying that is: when we are walking in the Light - when we are walking the talk then we are also walking in agreement and in unity (in true fellowship), with our brothers and sisters.**

The ones who were simply claiming to have fellowship were lying, therefore they were walking in darkness and there was no unity with those who were true followers of Jesus. They eventually left the fellowship.

There are 2 results of walking in the Light:

1. we have fellowship with one another. Those in the light are joined together in fellowship with those who submit to Jesus' own command to "love each other (2:7-11).
2. Those in this fellowship can be assured that: *the blood of Jesus, His Son, purifies us from all sin.*

In other words, those in the light do sin, but they recognize the need to be purified from sin.

The purpose of living in the Light is to arouse genuine fellowship among believers.

This is NB to John's overall argument: Truly walking in the Light shows itself in community fellowship. A person cannot say that he or she communes with God but then refuse to commune with God's people. This was the case with these false teachers and that is also the case with many today. They claim to get along well with God but can't get along with any of His children.

The natural result of living in the light is joyful relationship with other followers of Jesus (Comfort and Hawley; Cornerstone Biblical Commentary, 1-3 John, 334).

We need to remember that the only way we can have true fellowship is if our sin is dealt with – *the blood of Jesus, His Son, purifies us from all sin.*

We cannot come to the Light; we cannot walk in the Light until we allow the Light to shine upon our sin; our darkness.

**SONG: This Is Amazing Grace"**

*[Verse 1:]*

Who breaks the power of sin and darkness?  
Whose love is mighty and so much stronger?  
The King of Glory, the King above all kings

Who shakes the whole earth with holy thunder  
And leaves us breathless in awe and wonder?  
The King of Glory, the King above all kings

*[Chorus:]*

This is amazing grace  
This is unfailing love

That You would take my place  
That You would bear my cross  
You laid down Your life  
That I would be set free  
Oh, Jesus, I sing for  
All that You've done for me

*[Bridge:]*

Worthy is the Lamb who was slain  
Worthy is the King who conquered the grave  
Worthy is the Lamb who was slain  
Worthy is the King who conquered the grave  
Worthy is the Lamb who was slain  
Worthy is the King who conquered the grave  
Worthy is the Lamb who was slain  
Worthy, worthy, worthy  
Oh, so worthy.

SONG: what can wash away my sin, nothing but the blood of Jesus.  
Unless you and I come by way of the cross we will continue to live in darkness and die in darkness, without hope and without God.

Look the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world (John 1:29).

SONG: look to the Lamb of God, look to the Lamb of God; He who alone is able to save you, look to the Lamb of God.

### **8-9: God is faithful and just**

8.If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.

9.If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive our sins and cleanse (purify) us from all unrighteousness.

In response to the false claim that people can be without sin, the truth is that we do sin, but the Good News is that our sins can be forgiven and we can know real forgiveness and purity.

Forgiveness of sins begins with confession: "I have sinned." I must take responsibility. Note that word "if." If we confess our sins. . .

**Psalm 51:17:** The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit;  
a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.

It is when we humble ourselves before God that He can lift us up.

### **Illustration: The Pharisee and the Tax Collector – Luke 18:9-14**

*He also told this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and treated others with contempt: "Two men went up into the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee, standing by himself, prayed thus: 'God, I thank you that I am not like other men, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I get.' But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even lift up his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, 'God, be merciful to me, a sinner!' I tell you, this man went down to his house justified, rather than the other. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but the one who humbles himself will be exalted."*

To “confess” means to agree with God in regard to some specific sin that we have committed.

*If we confess our sins:* then look what happens: *He is faithful and just to forgive our sins and cleanse (purify) us from all unrighteousness.*

What an amazing Saviour:

**SONG:** I stand amazed in the presence of Jesus the Nazarene, and wonder how He could love me, a sinner condemned, unclean.

How marvellous, how wonderful, and my song shall ever be; how marvellous, how wonderful, is my Saviour’s love for me.

### **1:10-2:2: Jesus is Righteous and Advocates for us**

*10.If we claim we have not sinned, we make Him out to be a liar and His word is not in us.*

John levels his most serious charge yet: to those who say that they have not sinned, John is saying that they are calling God a liar.

The denial of sin makes God a liar, because it rejects God’s provision for sin, the atoning sacrifice of Jesus Christ (M. M. Thompson, The IVP NT Commentary Series, 1-3 John, 48).

To claim we have no sin goes beyond self-delusion; it is charging that God is a liar and to deny that sin is in us, which the Word of God is very clear about, indicates that “God’s word has no place in our hearts.”

*2:1: My dear children, I write this to you so that you will not sin. But if anybody does sin, we have an Advocate with the Father – Jesus Christ, the Righteous One.*

We are not yet perfect. “But if anybody does sin we have an Advocate.

Jesus is our advocate – an advocate is a representative or friend of the court who intercedes on our behalf with the Judge. Jesus the Righteous One intercedes with the Righteous Father for unrighteous sinners, so they might become righteous.

*2. He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world.*

Then the scene changes from the courtroom to the place of religious sacrifices.

John reminds his readers that Christ is also the atoning sacrifice for sin. His sacrifice atones for my sin – it removes my guilt and washes away impurity so that I continue in fellowship with God.

**SONG:** Jesus paid it all, all to Him I owe; sin had left a crimson stain, He washed it white as snow.

### **SO WHAT!**

#### 1. Our response to false teaching:

We too need to shine the truth of God’s Word on claims that we hear others make.

There are people who say that in the end because of God’s great love, all people will be in heaven.

There are people who claim that there is no Hell

There are people who claim that there are many paths to God.

There are people who claim that once you prayed the sinner’s prayer you can basically live as you like because you are now part of God’s family.

## 2. Our personal response to these verses from God's Word.

We too need to allow the Light of God's word to penetrate our hearts.

"If we confess our sins." We too need to confess our sins so that we can discover His cleansing.

A few years ago an article entitled "Pick and Choose Christianity," appeared in a major national magazine in the States. This article summarized a 3 year study of Christians from all denominations in one of the states, pointing out that all Christians pick and choose which teaching of Christianity they will accept and which ones they will leave behind. One of the least popular was the one regarding sin. Here is what the article stated: "what many have left behind is a pervasive sense of sin. Although 98% say they believe in personal sin, only 57% accepted the traditional notion that all people are sinful and only 1/3 allowed that they "make many mistakes but are not sinful themselves." One typical response was, "The day I die, I should only have to look up at my Maker and say, 'Take me' not 'forgive me.'" (Thompson, 46).

Are there sins that the Holy Spirit wants me to confess?

Are there people I need to make things right with so that fellowship with God and with them can be restored?

We too need to pray: Search me O God and know my heart today, try me O Saviour know my thoughts I pray. See if there be some wicked way in me, cleanse me from every sin and set me free.

### **Walking in the Light:**

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.

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.

### **PRAYER:**

### **SONG: the Light of the world is Jesus**

1. The whole world was lost in the darkness of sin – the Light of the world is Jesus; Like sunshine at noon-day His glory shone in – the Light of the world is Jesus.

**CHORUS** Come to the Light, 'tis shining for thee! Sweetly the Light has dawned upon me; once I was blind, but now I can see – the Light of the world is Jesus.

### **SONG: Trying to Walk in the Steps of the Saviour**

1. Trying to walk in the steps of the Saviour,  
Trying to follow our Saviour and King;  
Shaping our lives by His blessed example,  
Happy, how happy, the songs that we bring.

- o Refrain:  
How beautiful to walk in the steps of the Saviour,  
Walking in the light, walking in the light,  
How beautiful to walk in the steps of the Saviour,  
Led in paths of light.

2. Walking in footsteps of gentle forbearance,  
Footsteps of faithfulness, mercy, and love,  
Looking to Him for the grace freely promised,  
Happy, how happy, our journey above.