

January 23-28, 2023



*A deeper look into the
weekly sermon.
Dive in!*

We Will Walk in the Light

^{1:5} This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all. ⁶ If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice 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 cleanses us from all sin. ⁸ If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. ⁹ If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. ¹⁰ If we say we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

^{2:1} My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. ² He is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.

We cannot ignore the purity of God.

Monday, January 23, 2023

Light

This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all.

1 John 1:5

Please read and or listen to 1 John 1:1-2:2 today. In this section, John gives three reasons for his writing: fellowship (1:3), complete joy (1:4), and so they would not sin (2:1). Yet behind all of these reasons (and another yet to come (5:13)), there is a desire on his part that they would know who God is, specifically, that he is light and he is love. In these verses, he reveals how this impacts our view of sin. God is light. Essentially, this means that God is pure and righteous. He is totally, completely, absolutely, utterly holy, with absolutely no presence of sin, no presence of iniquity, and not even a whiff of injustice. He is resplendent with light. There is absolutely no darkness at all. John says that this is what they have heard from Jesus. John will go on to give some implications of this truth for the followers of Jesus, but for today, take some time to ponder this truth about God. Consider that he is absolute light and think about the difference that makes in how you approach him. Consider Jesus on the Mount of Transfiguration (a glimpse into the light). Consider that God dwells in unapproachable light (1 Timothy 6:16). Consider the impact that coming into the presence of the Son had on Isaiah (Isaiah 6:1ff). Praise God for his purity as you ponder his greatness.

Tuesday, January 24, 2023

Walk

If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth.

1 John 1:6

Please read and/or listen to 1 John 1:5-10 today. Since God is light, those who follow him must walk in the light. “To walk” means “to pursue a way of life and action.” It refers to the way one lives his or her life. One of the reasons John has written this letter is so that there can be fellowship with God. Since God is light, those who follow must walk in the light. It is a deception to walk in darkness and say that you are in fellowship with God. That is not truth. This does not mean that if you are a follower of Christ you will be as pure as God, but it does mean that you are intentionally and actively pursuing light in your life. The consequence of not walking in light is the breaking of fellowship with God. In presenting a person who might say that they have fellowship while they clearly are not walking in the light of God, John is then able to make it clear that it is not possible for that to be the case. Not only does it impact the fellowship with God, it impacts the fellowship with other followers of Jesus. Apparently, there were those who were not in fellowship with God who were claiming to be in fellowship with God. John says that it is very clear whether a person is in fellowship. If someone is not in fellowship with God, they are in fellowship with evil (walking in darkness, lying). Take some time today to examine yourself—ask God to search you. Are you walking in light or in darkness? Are there some adjustments that need to be made in your thought process and lifestyle to be walking in purity? Are you listening to any false narratives that have allowed you to keep some areas of darkness in your life? Let the light of truth shine on those areas of deceit.

Wednesday, January 25, 2023

Cleanses

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 cleanses us from all sin.

1 John 1:1

Please read and/or listen to 1 John 1:6-7 and the Gospel of John 3:16-21 today. We can walk in the light because of Jesus. It is the only way we can walk in the light. The blood of Jesus cleanses us so that the darkness is washed away. It is the death of Jesus on the cross that makes this possible. Only those who have repented and received Jesus as their Savior can walk in the light. Each person is born into darkness and walks in the darkness until that moment of cleansing. It is a continual cleansing in our lives. Jesus makes the light of God known and accessible. He is the light of the world. He brings the light that is life. He moves us from darkness to light. He brings us into fellowship. God loved the world and sent his Son to make it possible for us to be cleansed from all sin and to walk in fellowship with him and with all others who have been born again. For that to happen, God needed to become man. That is who Jesus is—fully God, fully man. He bled human blood to pay the penalty that would allow for the cleansing that is needed. There is no other way to walk in the light. Today, as you ponder the purity of God, ponder your purity as well. Many will live as though they have been saved from sin so that they can sin. It is just the opposite. If you are born again you have been saved from sin so that you do not sin. You will live a cleansed life. Ponder your purity. In Jesus you are cleansed. Are you living a cleansed life?

Thursday, January 26, 2023

Confess

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

1 John 1:8-9

Please read John 1:5-2:2 again today to keep in context the verses we are looking at today. Many people have memorized 1 John 1:9. It is a powerful and important verse. Do you see how powerful it is in context? First, John makes it clear that those in the church who were saying that they did not sin were seriously deluded. There were people, at that time, who felt that the sin of the physical realm was insignificant and was not a problem, since it was only what was in the spiritual realm that mattered. John is making it clear that all have sinned. This is important to remember. All have sinned. To say otherwise is not truth. If we do not realize our sin, we will remain in our sin. It is only as we realize our sin that we can confess it and find the forgiveness necessary for cleansing us from unrighteousness. Notice that it is not our confession that cleanses us—it is the faithfulness and righteousness of God that allows for forgiveness. To walk in the light we must be cleansed of unrighteousness. Again, Jesus is the one who makes this possible. He moves us from unrighteousness to righteousness. Today, ponder the ways that you have been cleansed from unrighteousness. Think of the faithfulness of God in forgiving you. Remember the moments of cleansing that you have experienced and celebrate those. Next, think about the areas in your life where you may think that you have no sin. What are some of the blind spots? How have you allowed yourself to be deceived into thinking that those things are okay to have in your life? Spend some sweet moments confessing and finding the freedom of forgiveness as you are cleansed from those places of darkness and filth.

Friday, January 27, 2023

Liar

If we say we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

1 John 1:10

John is making something very clear here. For those in the Church he was writing to who had bought into the heresies that were being put forth, he has a stinging short sentence—two implications if you say you have not sinned. First, you declare that God is a liar. Second, his word is not in you. One day, every knee will bow before Jesus (Philippians 2:10-11). In that moment, in his presence, no one will call him a liar. But in this fallen world, in this realm of darkness, it happens all the time. It happens because people do not have the word of God in them. Again, it is Jesus who makes this possible. When we are born again we experience a rebirth that brings Christ to live in us. His word is in us (see John 15). If God's word is not in us, then we use our own words or the words of the world to guide us and inform us. We see this all around us. People do as they think is best and they convince others to do the same. Their actions prove that they do not think what they are doing is sin, even though God has clearly said so. They are basically calling God a liar because they do not have or know his truth. Their lies impact all who listen and draw people away from truth. How have those who call God a liar by embracing sin influenced you? What voices do you allow to impact your thoughts and decisions? Is it the words of men or the word of God? How does God's truth live in you?

Saturday, January 28, 2023

Advocate

My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. He is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.

1 John 2:1-2

John is expressing the heart of God. He has saved us from sin so that we might not sin. One day, true believers will step into his presence completely removed from the presence of sin. We will be swallowed up by the true life for which we have been designed. John's heart for his children (notice the term of endearment that he uses here for those in the church) is that they might not sin. Consider the pain that sin brings into your life. Consider the consequences that you live with every day because of sin in the world and, yes, in your own life. I would much prefer to not sin. And that is my goal. God's word, washing over you and in you will give you greater victory over sin. It is written so that you might not sin. Yet John realizes that we will. And when we do, we have an advocate—again, Jesus. It is all about Jesus. The world needs Jesus. We are lost without him. We needed for him to live and die and rise again. But here John makes it clear that we also needed for him to ascend and be with the Father. We need him next to the Father advocating for us! Interceding for us! He is the righteous and he is our righteousness (2 Corinthians 5:21). He is the propitiation for our sins. His death on the cross made it possible for the wrath of God to be satisfied. That is what propitiation means. In addition, he took our sins away as far as the east is from the west. Today, ponder Jesus at the right hand of the Father, advocating for his Church.



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