

Walking in the Light

New Life Lessons
January 2nd & 3rd, 2016
Pastor Ron Salsbury

- **Day One – Read 1 John 1:1-2; Matthew 1:23; John 10:30.** Why was it so important for John to establish the fact that he was an “eye witness?” John was attacking two false teachings. Both came from the false teaching that our spirit is good and our flesh is evil. So, one false teaching claimed that Jesus wasn’t fully human. And the second false teaching claimed that it doesn’t really matter how we live, and that sin doesn’t affect our spirit.

Pray and ask God to help you recognize false teaching in its current forms. Ask for wisdom to discern the truth about Jesus and the truth about sin.

- **Day Two – Read 1 John 1:3-4; 14:18, 23; 17:20-23.** The reality of the trinity and how in the same way, we are “one” with each other and God is truly a mystery.

Pray and thank God that he has made it possible to join with other believers in the fellowship enjoyed by the Father and the Son. Ask for help in understanding both the privileges and responsibilities of these relationships.

- **Day Three – Read 1 John 1:5-10; John 8:12, 31b-32.** What does “walking in the truth” mean to you? How are we “set free” by truth? Which of the major themes of 1 John are the most susceptible to false teaching today?

Pray and ask God to help you know the truth and live in its power. Ask that our study of 1 John would deepen our love for God and each other.

“Walking in the Light”

Children of God #1

1 John 1:1-10

1 John 1:1-10 (NIV) ¹ That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked at and our hands have touched--this we proclaim concerning the Word of life. ² The life appeared; we have seen it and testify to it, and we proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and has appeared to us.

³ We proclaim to you what we have seen and heard, so that you also may have fellowship with us. And our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ. ⁴ We write this to make our joy complete. 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 yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live by 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.

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 has no place in our lives.

Understanding John’s First Letter

Written by Whom? To Whom? Why?

The Major Themes of 1 John include:

Sin (1:5-10; 2:1-2, 12-17; 3:4-9; 5:16-21). Even Christians sin. Sin requires God's forgiveness, and Christ's death provides it. Determining to live according to God's standards in the Bible shows that believers' lives are being transformed.

Love (2:7-11; 3:10-11, 14-16, 23; 4:7-21; 5:1-3). John's letters all talk of how one's living in God must be tested by how one lives with his or her companions in Christ. If we could ask John what is the one message he wanted us to get from these letters, he would probably say, "Love each other."

The Family of God (1:1-4; 2:18-21, 24-25, 28-29; 3:1-3, 10-20; 4:20-21). The one, unique fellowship between the Father and the Son existed in eternity, was manifest in time through the incarnation of the Son, was introduced to the apostles, and then through the apostles was extended to each and every believer.

Truth and Error (2:4-6, 18-23, 26-27; 3:7-9; 4:1-6). False teachers were as present in the young church as false prophets had been in Old Testament Israel. John wanted believers to know the truth so they would be able to distinguish it from error. True teachers affirm God's word and teach that Jesus was fully God and fully man. Don't be led astray by any teaching that denies Christ's deity or humanity. Check the message; test the claims.

Assurance (2:3-6; 3:19-24; 5:1-15, 19-20). Several times in this letter, John assures readers that they can "know" or "be sure." They can know that they "belong to him" (2:3), that they are "living in the truth" (3:19), that God lives in them (3:24), and that God hears their prayers (5:15). Regardless of what is happening around us or to us, we can be assured of God's presence and love and of our eternal destination. If you have trusted in Christ as your Savior, you *have* eternal life. Live with the assured confidence of the reality of God.

Life Application New Testament Commentary.

"Walking in the Light" Means:

1. Knowing the Foundation of Our Faith - Jesus as God in the Flesh.

1 John 1:1-2 (NIV) ¹ That which was from the beginning, which **we have heard**, which **we have seen** with our eyes, which we have looked at and **our hands have touched**--this we proclaim concerning the Word of life. ² The life appeared; **we have seen it and testify to it**, and we **proclaim to you** the eternal life, which was with the Father and **has appeared to us**. Isaiah 7:14; Matthew 1:23; John 10:30; 14:9b; 17:5

2. Understanding the Reality of Our Fellowship – with God & Each Other.

1 John 1:3-4 (NIV) ³ We proclaim to you **what we have seen and heard**, so that you also **may have fellowship with us**. And **our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ**. ⁴ We write this to make our joy complete. John 14:18, 23; 17:20-23

3. Living in the Truth of God's Word – the Power of God's Promises.

1 John 1:5-10 (NIV) 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 yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live by 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**. 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 has no place in our lives. John 8:31b-32

John 8:12 (NIV) ¹² Jesus said, "I am the light of the world. **Whoever follows me** will never walk in darkness, but **will have the light of life**."