

1 John 1:5-10 God is Light

November 30, 2008

Unless otherwise stated, all scripture references are from the English Standard Version (ESV)

Last week began looking at the letter of 1 John and found out that John was writing this letter to combat error that was putting pressure on the church by throwing believers into uncertainty and confusion about who Jesus really was and whether or not they were indeed saved.

Page | 1

In fact it would be true to say that all the major errors that have plagued the church have either been errors that have attacked the incarnation of Christ (that God became flesh) or how a person is saved.

John was writing this letter to the church to assure the believers that Jesus was in fact the Christ or (God in the flesh) something that the deceivers were denying and that by believing in Him they were to have assurance of their salvation.

Next week I want to expand a little further upon the term salvation and what it means to be saved.

For those of us who have been in church a long time this word has become so familiar, but if you were to talk to those out on the streets they will more than likely ask you what do you mean by salvation and being saved.

Or as one of my friends put it to me many years ago: “saved from what?”

John was also writing to these believers so that their joy would be complete - lacking nothing.

Can I just say, do not let anyone (including yourselves) or anything rob you of your joy. If you have no joy you end up having no strength. As it says in Neh 8:10 the joy of the Lord is your strength

I also want to say that it is important to get a good dose of being around joyful people. Continual negativity from people who only always see what's wrong will eventually bring you down.

1 John 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.

We saw last week that John called Jesus THE ETERNAL LIFE, the life without beginning and the life without end. Only one person has no beginning and no end and that is God. Jesus is assuring these believers that Jesus in fact God.

In a similar way we also see that Jesus is also called THE LIGHT and calls himself the LIGHT, in other words once again Jesus is being equated with God.

John 1:1-4

1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

2 He was in the beginning with God.

3 All things were made through him, and without him was not anything made that was made.

4 In him was life, and the life was the **light** of men.

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."

God is LIGHT and in him there is no darkness at all.

There is nothing that we do, have done, or ever will do that will remain hidden and not be exposed by God's light either now or at the last day.

Why is this important?

John 3:16-20

16 "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.

17 For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.

18 Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God.

19 And this is the judgment: the light has come into the world, and people loved the darkness rather than the light because their works were evil.

20 For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his works should be exposed.

This is important because our salvation depends on it - our relationship with Jesus depends on it.

Either we love the light or we love the darkness. We cannot love both.

Do we love the darkness and try to run or hide from God or do we love the light and come to Jesus so that He can shine His light on every area of our lives so that we can be truly FREE.

1 John 1:6

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

There are bucket loads of people that say they are Christian, but continue to walk in the darkness. Their lives do not match their words.

1 John 1:7

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.

There are two things to note here.

1) You can only truly have fellowship with those who are truly Christian - those who are walking in the light.

I think it is worth repeating how John Piper describes fellowship.

“Fellowship is a personal experience of sharing something significant in common with others. It’s the pleasure of being in a group when you see eye to eye on what really matters. It’s having similar values and responding with the same kind of affections to what really counts. It’s what gives root and fiber and fruit to a Christian marriage.

So to say you have fellowship with the Father and his Son means that you have come to share their values. You believe what they believe and love what they love. And so you delight to spend time together. You love to include them in all that you do. You cherish the thought of spending an eternity getting to know them better”.

Do you have that fellowship with brothers and sisters and with Jesus?

If yes then you are walking in the light. Be at peace.

2) Because we walk in the light we have the enormous privilege of having all the wrong, terrible things we have ever thought or have ever done **cleansed, washed clean, wiped away as though we had never done them, freed from all guilt** and all of this because of what Jesus did on the cross.

If we walk in the darkness we are on our own - we have no one to help us and we can never help ourselves.

1 John 1:8

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

Now this is where many people are at - they will say that they have NO sin, that they are ok and are living a good life.

The bible says that if you say you have no sin, then God says you are self deceived and the truth is not in you. It is as simple as that.

1 John 1:9

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

1 John 1:10

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

Now here is the Great News. If we own up to our sin and confess them to Jesus we have a water tight promise that He will forgive us from our sins and cleanse us from ALL unrighteousness - everything.

It is so simple that a baby could understand it but unfortunately many people never ever see it.

Let's close our eyes for a moment.

God says we've sinned - we say we haven't. Someone must be lying.

God is LIGHT and in Him there is NO darkness. We can trust Him.

How about you this morning are you walking in the light as He is in the light - do you have fellowship with Him and with those who are walking in the light?

Do you want this fellowship? Are you prepared to be a person who belongs to the Light.

Are you willing to bear some embarrassment when people find out that you belong to Him.

Are you willing to be counted alongside the one who was willing to lay down His own life on the cross for you?

The creator who was willing to endure the shame of dying on a Roman cross, in front of people who mocked him, in front of people who spat on him, in front of people who

cursed him, in front of people who beat him, in front of people who whipped him. And all of this was so that we could be set free from the deceitfulness of sin and its ultimate end death.

Are you willing to throw everything in with Him and not rely on your own attempts at goodness.

Page | 5

You can and he is calling you - simply let go and let him flood you life with His light. He will do it if you are willing.