

Message #9- *Precepts Sermon Series- "Walk With ME!"* 1 John 1: 5-10

*Precept: We have an instant remedy for sin- CONFESSION

Introduction: IL- Screen, picture of Mammoth Cave. Visitors cannot turn flashlights on during the trip below ground. Our world is in darkness due to sin. Christians have been brought into the Light and can and should shine that light brightly to those around us! Sometimes we fail to be the light, but we can confess our sins to God who forgives...

*Walking with Jesus daily means that I commit to two powerful concepts:

Practicing the truth- verses 5-7 "God is light and in Him is no darkness at all."

John wrote this letter to his fellow believers in Ephesus about 50 years after the work of Christ on the Cross. His focus was on walking in the light and on confession when we head into sin, as we sometimes do. There was a group of "professing" believers by the end of the first century, known as the Gnostics, who were teaching that they were free from sin altogether, that they had no sin nature and could not sin. John refutes that error in this key paragraph, under the direction of the Holy Spirit. The two key verses in this text are verse 7 and verse 9. Practicing the truth involves steering clear of the darkness and walking in truth. Darkness is a metaphor for the opposite of God's character- there is no darkness with Him, nor would there be with any of His children by faith. Walking in darkness is falsehood if that person claims to have fellowship with God. That person doesn't want to live righteously but instead wants to go their own sinful way! God is light by His very nature, and Jesus, God's Son is also light. John 8: 12- "I am the Light of the world: he that followeth Me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life." We also learn from the Bible that God's Word is light. "Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light untp my path!" (Psalm 119: 105) "Oh, send out Thy light and Thy truth: let them lead me; let them bring me unto Thy holy hill and to Thy tabernacles." (Psalm 43: 3) Additionally, Christians, corporately and individually, are called light. "For you were sometimes darkness, but now are you light in the Lord: walk as children of light." (Ephesians 5: 8) For us to be light means that we reflect the character of the Lord Jesus and walk in righteousness and holiness. As we walk in the light, we receive even more capacity to shine the light."For with You is the fountain of life. In Your light do we see light!" (Psalm 36: 3) In verse 6 John uses the conditional word "IF" and also in verse 8 and verse 10. To SAY we have fellowship with God while walking in darkness is a lie and demonstrates that there is no truth in us. But, IF we walk in the light with Jesus we have fellowship with Him and with those who practice truth as well. Think about the significance of that- that a mere human being, saved from sin and given new life in Christ, can have fellowship or communion with the very God who made that person and re-made them at Calvary. What a privilege that is! We would do well to praise Him often for that sweet fellowship He gives us and its outreach to the rest of the family of God. Fellowship with Him leads to wonderful fellowship with my brothers and sisters in Christ. None of us is perfect, but our God-blessed fellowship is a joy as often as we are together. While I am seeking to put truth into practice as I walk in the light, I can take time again and again to thank and praise God for forgiveness of sin- an instant remedy for a sinner saved by grace!

Praising Him for forgiveness- verses 8-10 “He is faithful and just to forgive...”

No true believer would ever say, “I have no sin nature” or “I do not sin at all. The “know-it-alls” said such things and tried their best to win converts over to their view of perfection in this life.

IL- D.L. Moody was once introduced to a man who held those Gnostic views and told Mr. Moody that he never sinned at all. Pastor Moody responded- “I’d like to ask your wife about that!”

Some people feel that verses 8 and 10 differ on the claim to have no sin. “If we SAY we have no sin” and “If we SAY we have not sinned.” I believe both claims are the same- the deluded person is saying he or she is sinless and doesn’t need forgiveness. I don’t know about you, but I know for certain that I have sinned. I was born in sin and born into a sinful, dark world. I desperately needed to claim God’s grace and His forgiveness and still do. I became a child of God while still a child, and through my growing up years and right up to the year 2022 I have at times sinned against God’s holy laws. I have realized more than once or twice that I did something that grieved the heart of my Lord, but also realized that Jesus’ blood on the Cross paid for all my sin- ALL unrighteousness, according to our text. Besides personal sins that only God knew about, I have had to confess times when I sinned against someone else in the family of God and negatively affected our fellowship until I went to that person and asked for forgiveness. Being loved by God and growing in my love for Him is the basis for fellowship with other believers. I John 2: 9- “He that says he is in the light, and hateth his brother, is in darkness even until now.”

How do we handle sin in relation to God’s standards and in connection with my fellow believers?

I claim the power of the Cross! It is the blood of Jesus Christ that cleanses- that word “cleanses” is in the present tense and means that continual cleansing and forgiveness is available to each child of God who comes in humility and admits, agrees with God, about the sin that weighs heavily on our heart!

If I am walking with Jesus, walking in the light, I have continual possession of God’s gracious forgiveness and continual fellowship with the Savior and my church family!

Conclusion: IL- John Peterson- “No more I’ll wander in the dreadful night of sin and shame! I’m walking in the light, walking in the light! I’m on the road to Heaven, oh the truth I must proclaim! I’m walking in the Savior’s light!”

Chapter Two- verse 1- “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!”

[Share before we partake of the bread and cup in Communion.]