

I John - Week Two **Walking In God's Light 1:5-2:2** **Knowing The God of Light 2:3-11**

VERSE 5

God is light –

1. Reveals that God is completely holy!
2. Reveals that in God's very nature we are exposed!

No darkness – Darkness speaks of the moral and spiritual realm where God is absent, the realm of evil.

Acts 26:15 – "... that they may turn from darkness to light and from the dominion of Satan to God,"

VERSE 6

Three "If we say..." phrases in verse 6, 8, 10 that will deal with three errors.

1. Verse 6 – Saying that we have fellowship with God when we live in moral and/or spiritual darkness
2. Verse 8 – Saying that we don't have a sin nature.
3. Verse 10 – Saying that we have not sinned.

VERSE 7

Walk in the Light – Not according to the Light, this would require sinless perfection, but in the sphere where God Himself is. A refusal to be honest and open destroys true fellowship.

The Blood of Jesus...cleanses us from all sin - Not has cleansed but is cleansing! What this means is that the failures and sinful habits that still cling to us do not prevent our fellowship with God because of the ongoing benefits of Christ's shed blood for us.

VERSE 8 If we say...

Danger: Arriving at a point where we forget that "the blood of Jesus cleanses us from all sin" and thinking that we have arrived.

Even when we feel close to God and are in fellowship with Him, it is not because we are free of sin. It is because "the blood of Jesus cleanses us from all sin".

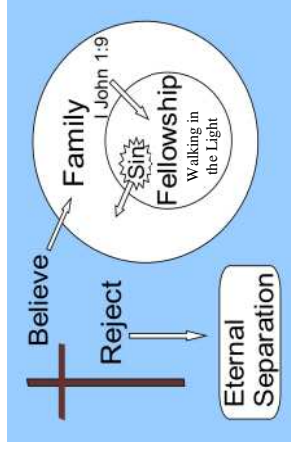
VERSE 9

Confess – literally means "to say the same thing"
Repentance is needed when we have persisted in sin and need to change our mind.

Confession is needed when we discover sin in our lives, and this can happen while we are actually in fellowship with God.

Cleanse us from all unrighteousness – the cleansing covers everything that needs cleansing, even sins of which we are unaware.

Conversion forgiveness makes us acceptable as members of God's family. Continual forgiveness enables us to experience intimate fellowship as sons within God's family.



VERSE 10

Flows out of verse 9. If instead of confessing specific sins we deny them then we deny His word and in effect charge God with being a liar.

I John 2 **VERSE 1**

Disclaimer: Since John has made it clear that we do sin he wants to make sure his words are not wrongly perceived as saying sin is the norm for believers.

Advocate (Greek – *parakletos*) "one who appears in another's behalf, an intercessor." Not for our eternal salvation, this has already been accomplished, but for the maintenance of our faith, for our spiritual recovery when we sin, and for our future usefulness.

Jesus is perfectly suited to be our Advocate for two main reasons:

1. He is righteous
2. He, Himself, is the propitiation for our sins. He is literally before God the Father as the personal and visible "satisfaction" for our sins.

God is perfectly satisfied because of what He is – righteous and what He has done at the cross.

This perfect satisfaction extends not only to us as believers but also to the whole world! The Greek is *kosmos* which is clearly speaks of the world system of Satan and unsaved men. Note the usage in 2:15-17 and 5:19. The clear teaching of Scripture is definitely Universal Atonement not limited Atonement!

Walking in God's light summarized:

Truth	False Claim	Correction
God Is Light 1:5	We can have fellowship with God while walking in darkness 1:6	We must walk in The Light to have true fellowship 1:7
The blood of Jesus cleanses us from all sin 1:7	We have no sin 1:8	Confess our sins 1:9
Confession results in cleansing 1:9	We have not sinned 1:10	Recognize our Advocate 2:2-2

KNOWING THE GOD OF LIGHT – 2:3-11

VERSE 3

Increased fellowship with God will always result in increased knowledge of God

The series of 'tests' in verses 3 – 11 are so that we can measure our experiential knowledge of God. They are not tests to determine if we are saved.

We again see the false claims about 'knowing God' introduced in verses 4, 6, and 9 by the phrase 'The one who says'. Each one of these is examined and the true test of 'knowing God' is set forth.

VERSE 4 'the one who says...'

Our personal experiential knowledge of God will affect the way we live, and the way we live, obediently or disobediently, will reveal how well we really know God.

John 14:15 If you love Me, you will keep My commandments."

VERSE 5 'but whoever keeps...'

John 8:31 "...if you abide in My word, then you are truly disciples of Mine."

'In Him" Paul uses this expression as a synonym for being a believer. John uses the expression in the same way that Jesus used it in John 15:10ff to describe that group of believers who abide in Him.

John 15:10 "If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love; just as I have kept My Father's commandments, and abide in His love."

VERSE 6 'the one who says...'

'Walk in the same manner as He walked" – The goal of any disciple is to be like his teacher.

Un-Christ like behavior is not living the true Christian life. This takes time and a commitment to obedience. We also must remember that we never 'arrive' in the sense of being sinless.

VERSES 7 – 8

These verses deal with what makes us Christ like; what identifies that we are walking as He walked.

'Old commandment – from the beginning' – probably Christ's commandment in John 13:34

'True in Him and in you' – Christ's obedience to the Father fulfilled this commandment first. Our obedience to the Father is fulfilling it now. This is another way of saying, 'walk as He walked'.

'Darkness is passing away, and the true light is already shining' - The world system is passing away and will ultimately be judged when Christ appears.

"The true light is already shining" – The true light has already been manifested in the person of the Lord Jesus Christ.

John 8:12 "...I am the light of the world; he who follows me shall not walk in the darkness; but shall have the light of life."

VERSE 9 - 11 'the one who says...'

Hatred of other Christians is a sure sign that one is not walking with God in fellowship.

Hatred of other Christians has three affects on the believer:

1. It places them in darkness outside of fellowship with God.
2. It leads them to aimless activity.
3. It results in mental confusion.

Summary:

CLAIM	CONDITION
"I have come to know Him" verse 4	"keep His word" verse 5
"I abide in Him" verse 6	"walk...as He walked" verse 6
"I am in the light" verse 9	"loves his brother" verse 10

Next Week – Resisting Antichrists

Recognize spiritual assets, 2:12 – 14

Recognize spiritual adversaries, 2:15 – 27