

BRIARWOOD WOMEN OF THE COVENANT MIDWEEK STUDY 1 2 3 JOHN

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WEEK 2

Introduction

Quick Review--- This first epistle of John is more like a pastoral sermon for the church – in it John is both teaching deep doctrinal truths as well as inviting his audience to experience and know Jesus in a deeply real and personal way – which will bring unto them increased joy and assurance in their faith.

What was the first problem that was solved in the Bible? Gen 1:1-3

What was the last problem that was solved in the Bible? Revelation 21:22-24 & 22:5

Passage for today: 1 John 1:5 -10

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. (ESV)

1 John 2:1-2

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 only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world.

We are going to walk through this passage by looking through 5 things:

1. How scripture affirms/ illumines that God is light
2. How His light comes to us
3. What his light shows us
4. What it invites us to
5. And how it assures us when we fail

I. How scripture affirms and illumines that God is light?

➔ His word unfolds to us not only the truth that He IS light but that ***His light denotes His presence.***

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II. How can we have His light?

- John 1:9 - 12 → To receive his light we must receive His Son.
- Hebrews 1:3 → Jesus is fully God – so having Him – IS having the light of GOD.
- 2 Corinthians 4:3-6 → He must open our eyes to behold his glory and see his light
- Psalm 34:5 → We too, like Moses, are indwelt with light from being with Him.
- Colossians 1:12-13 → He has transferred us from the kingdom of darkness, in Christ

III. What His light invites us to:

A. To Right Seeing

- Isaiah 6 → His light shows us things we have not seen before. It shows us ourselves as we have not seen ourselves before. It reveals.

B. To Purification from Sin

C. To protection from false teaching

- John is debunking 3 layers of a very dangerous myth of the time:
 1. If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness, then we lie and do not practice the truth. One of the false claims of the time was that sin did not hinder fellowship with God. Influencers claimed that even while maintaining sinful habits they had fellowship with God.
 2. If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.
 3. If we say we have not sinned, then we make him out to be a liar and his word is not in us.

D. To Confession as a means of receiving his Grace

- On the other hand – the way forward is to CONFESS your sins--- to speak back to God what is true and what He has revealed.
 - He is faithful to forgive you just as he promised
 - And He is JUST – because He himself met the payment for justice that was required.

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IV. The assurance His Light provides us with - 1 John 2:1-2 *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 only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world.*

- J. Stott – Too great a lenience almost encourages sin in the Christian by stressing God’s provision for the sinner. An exaggerated severity, on the other hand, either denies the possibility of a Christian sinning or refuses him forgiveness and restoration if he falls. Both of these extremes are here contradicted by John.
- John doesn’t stop here though – he adds a critical clause – offering assurance of His provision when we fail
 - His provision is 2 fold--- kind of like it always was:
 - **We need a mediator---** to speak on our behalf to God
 - **And we need a lamb** – a pure sacrifice to bleed and pay for our sins
 - **And we have a mediator** - See Hebrews 9:12 But when Christ appeared as a high priest... he entered once for all into the holy places... 15... therefore he is a mediator of a new covenant...
 - **And we have a lamb** – Heb 10:11 the priests stood daily at service, offering repeatedly the same sacrifices, which could never take away sins. But when Christ had offered, for all time a single sacrifice for sins, he sat down at the right hand of God.... for by a single sacrifice he has purified (perfected) for all time those who are still being sanctified. That where there is forgiveness there is no longer any offering for sin.
 - **He IS both priest and lamb for us.**
 - **We have an advocate with the Father** --- a “paraclete”

Stott says that Jesus calling the Holy Spirit another “paraclete” implied that he himself is the first. Stott explains it like this --- If we have an advocate in heaven, Christ has an advocate on earth. The Holy Spirit he says is Christ’s paraclete, as the Lord Jesus is ours. But whereas the Holy Spirit pleads Christ’s cause before a hostile world, Christ pleads our cause against our accuser in Heaven. He goes on to say that we should no longer regard Jesus Christ as our Judge, for we already have been judged and declared innocent. We are now in his family as a child; so when we sin – we are not seeking more justification from the divine judge, **rather we are seeking the forgiveness of our Father.** And this too, is assured to us through the advocacy of Jesus Christ the Righteous One.

Conclusion → When we see Him -we shall be like HIM, for we shall see him as He is. Right SIGHT transforms!