

**WALKING IN THE LIGHT**

**1 John 1:5-2:2**

**The Lighthouse**

The New Testament epistles have been described as lighthouses –

-The NT epistles, in the same way, warn of dangers and guide the Christian into the truth.

As John wrote his epistle, he did so with the false teaching of Gnosticism in mind –

-The Gnostics taught that the way of salvation was through knowledge – or a special kind of knowledge that only an elite group could attain.

-There are three main errors with Gnosticism –

1 – Philosophical error – They taught that material matter was evil and that the spirit or immaterial part of a person was inherently good.

2 – Theological error – They taught that since the material was evil, then the Incarnation could not have happened because God couldn't take on a human, material body.

3 – Moral error – They taught that since the body is evil then what it does is irrelevant. Evil is something the body does but the soul remains good.

4 – Relational error – They basically taught there were the intellectual haves and the intellectual have nots.

You can see how John is refuting this dangerous doctrine in what he writes

**Read 1 John 1:1-4**

**Pray**

**The Message**

True Christians 1) walk in the light 2) confess their sins 3) appeal to their advocate, Jesus Christ the righteous.

**1 – Walking in the light**

-True Christians will not walk in darkness – they will walk in the light

v. 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.”*

-First of all notice that John says, “This is **the** message we have heard from (Jesus)”

-Second – When the Bible uses light to speak of God then it refers to one of three realities –

-God is light in that He is morally pure – Holiness

-God is light in that He reveals what is true – Truth

-God is light in that He is totally glorious – Glory

-So, Jesus came to reveal God to the world – to make Him known – to proclaim a message –

-What is that message?

-That God is holy, true and glorious!

-What is the implication of this?

-Salvation, eternal life, the gospel according to Jesus is primarily about God!

-It's about knowing God...It's about being in fellowship with God!

-The gospel message we share with people should begin and end with God!

-v. 6 – *“If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth.”*

-A claim is being made – “I have fellowship with God!”

-But a reality is observed – “You walk in darkness.”

-A conclusion is drawn – “You lie and do not practice the truth.”

-Here is something we will come across a lot in this letter – the use of the present tense verbs –

-For example – “...we walk in darkness”

-This is in the present tense which portrays an action in process or state of being – it is a continuous process or habit.

-So, “if we say we have fellowship with him while we continually, habitually walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth.”

-If your life is characterized by habitual darkness – you’re not a Christian.

-If you have come to believe in Jesus and now know God – there is a transformational change that is at work in your life –

-v. 7 – *“But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another...”*

-The “one another” fellowship has already been defined in verse 3 – “fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ.”

-How can a God who is absolutely light – with no darkness at all – ever have fellowship with sinners?

-How could we possibly walk in the light?

-v. 7b – *“...and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin.”*

-There’s the present verbal action – “The blood of Jesus continually cleanses us from all sin.”

-There is an ongoing effect of the death of Christ – He continually represents us before God, He continually pleads our case before God, His blood continually cleanses us from all sin!

-This is why we are able to fellowship with Him and walk in His light.

## 2 – Confessing Sins

-True Christians will not conceal their sins – they will confess them

-v. 8 – *“If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.”*

-For someone to say that they have no sin they must –

-Ignore the sin they really do have –

-Rename the sin to be something other than sin.

-Denial that a certain desire, thought or action is sin.

-But this is to pedal self-deception.

-And what is worse than self-deception is the failure to see and value what God has done to pay for our sins.

-Prov. 28:13 – *“He who conceals their sins does not prosper, but the one who confesses and renounces them finds mercy.”* (NIV)

-A true believer will confess their sins –

-v. 9 – *“If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”*

## 3 – Appealing to Our Advocate

-True Christians will not trust themselves – they will appeal to Jesus their advocate

-v. 10 – *“If we say we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.”*

-This bold and brazen declaration “I have not sinned” is the same attitude Jesus dealt with over and over

-John 9:41; 15:22, 24; 19:11

-But true believers look away from themselves and unto Christ –

-I 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 for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.”*