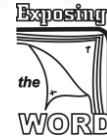


KNOW "LIGHT, LOVE & LIFE"

A Sermonic Commentary of the Epistle of 1 John

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Scripture King James Version unless otherwise noted.



2- Know: The God of Light 1 John 1:5-10

1 John 1:5-10 *This then is the message which we have heard of him, and declare unto you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all. 6 If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth: 7 But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin. 8 If we say that 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 that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.*

We discovered that Christ was not a created being but was in fact God from the beginning in our last study. In this study we look at Know the God of Light. James says of God in **James 1:17** *Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning.*

I- God is Light:

1 John 1:5 *This then is the message which we have heard of him, and declare unto you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all.*

The Bible states in the creation story in **Genesis 1:2-5** *And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters. 3 And God said, Let there be light: and there was light. 4 And God saw the light, that it was good: and God divided the light from the darkness. 5 And God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And the evening and the morning were the first day.*

This is the account of the creation of light, physical light as we know it. One thing

that is important is that we understand that light comes from the sun shining down upon the earth from its place in the sky but the sun was not created until later in fourth day of creation. So may I suggest that God has always been light and does not need artificial light to be light Himself.

We see this reinforced in eternity future. In the future city of God notice what **Revelation 21:23-24** says **23** *And the city had no need of the sun, neither of the moon, to shine in it: for the glory of God did lighten it, and the Lamb is the light thereof. 24 And the nations of them which are saved shall walk in the light of it: and the kings of the earth do bring their glory and honour into it.*

So it is apparent that light in its fullest sense is not just physical illumination that allows us humans to see. In its deeper meaning it is a spiritual matter as well.

Barnes Notes comments on the phrase that God is light says:

Light, in the Scriptures, is the emblem of purity, truth, knowledge, prosperity, and happiness - as darkness is of the opposite. John here says that "God is light"... not the light, or a light, but light

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itself; that is, he is himself all light, and is the source and fountain of light in all worlds.

II- In Him is no Darkness:

In addition we see here that there is no darkness at all in God. There is not dark side, no evil side that is just waiting to manifest itself. No hidden thing no one knows. No spot on His being that could ever be called into question, not that fallen men don't try, about his character.

Vincent Word Studies says that the strong meaning here is "According to the Greek order, the rendering is: "And darkness there is not in Him, no, not in any way.""

As a matter of fact John in his gospel went so far as to say that the darkness could not over take the light of God. **John 1:5 HCSB** *That light shines in the darkness, yet the darkness did not overcome it.*

III- A Test of Fellowship:

Remember now that Light represents pureness, holiness, and right character. Notice what John next adds concerning us having fellowship with the God of Light.

1 John 1:6 *If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth:* If we walk in darkness and claim to be walking in light then we are lying. A test of fellowship is how we treat others and our deeds and actions. Jesus connected the deeds, words and other things we do to the heart in **Matthew 12:35** *A good man out of the good treasure of the heart bringeth forth good things: and an evil man out of the evil treasure bringeth forth evil things.*

The reason many man refuse to have anything to do with God is that their hearts are not right with Him.

Notice **John 3:19** *And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil.*

IV- Fellowship in the Light:

John 8:12 *Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.*

Now lets be totally honest we do not always do what is perfectly right. We at times do thing that are from the darkness. However, when we are walking the way we should be then the fellowship both vertically with God and horizontally with others is right. **1 John 1:7** *But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.*

The walking in the Light also entails forgiveness of sin. May I put it this way, it involving driving out the darkness with the light of God? The part I like is the cleansing from all sin.

V- Self Deception:

Mankind is notorious for self-deception. Our culture today perpetrates this as well. We are taught that we need to have good self-esteem or to not be too hard on ourselves. I agree with that as long as it is in the context of how God sees us. The danger of this is that we never come face to face with the fact that we are sinners.

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Now concerning the saints we need to not miss an important point. Even after we are saved, and John is writing to saved men and women here, we still struggle with sin. Many Christians act like they never do anything wrong and never commit any sin again after they are saved. I think this is a foreign concept from Scripture.

Notice what John says here. **1 John 1:8** *If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.*

1 John 1:10 *If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.*

Now that is strong words would you not say? We deceive ourselves, truth not in us, make God a liar sounds pretty strong to me.

I have thought a lot about this next part of the Scriptures that I want to look at with you. I do not mean to make it a cop out to allow us to sin at will. As a matter of fact God forbid that you or I ever get the feeling because we are under grace that we have a license to sin or surrender to the flesh. Believe me we do enough trying to fight the flesh. Now notice what Paul said in **Romans 7:15-20 ESV** *For I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate. 16 Now if I do what I do not want, I agree with the law, that it is good. 17 So now it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells within me. 18 For I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh. For I have the desire to*

do what is right, but not the ability to carry it out. 19 For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I keep on doing. 20 Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells within me.

That struggle that we will all face our entire life. Until the last breath sin will be ever present and possible for us as believer. That is why we must constantly be on guard.

VI- The Deliverance:

Paul went on to say in **Romans 7:24-25 ESV** *Wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death? 25 Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, I myself serve the law of God with my mind, but with my flesh I serve the law of sin.*

The deliverance comes at the foot of Christ. Cleansing comes when we confess our sin. I love the next verse because it makes it possible for me to live in fellowship with God who is the God of Light.

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.*

What can wash away my darkness? the Light of the world can and will if we will only bring our sins to Him and not try to hide them in the darkness.