

January 1, 2023

“Walking in the Light”
1 John 1:1-2:2

Prel Rmks

LOGW

Last Sunday – the light the LJ has brought to our lives

Today

What it means to walk in that light. ~ “walking”

Which should be our aim as we look to the new year that lies ahead.

Our Walk = how we live

Let's read our text

(1) That which was from the beginning, which **we** have heard, which **we** have seen with **our** eyes, which **we** have looked upon, and **our** hands have handled, concerning the Word of life— **(2)** the life was manifested, and **we** have seen, and bear witness, and declare to you that eternal life which was with the Father and was manifested to us— **(3)** that which **we** have seen and heard **we** declare to you, that you also may have fellowship with **us**; and truly **our** fellowship is with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ. **(4)** And these things **we** write to you that your joy may be full. **(5)** This is the message which **we** have heard from Him and declare to 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 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 Christ His Son cleanses 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. **(2:1)** My little children, these things I write to you, so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. **(2)** And He Himself is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the whole world.

INTRODUCTION

As children of God:

1 Thessalonians 5:4-5
 you ... are not in darkness ...
(5) You are ... sons of light and sons of the day. We are not of the night nor of darkness.

We have the light of the Word of God.

And because of that:

We have the light of the Son of God in our lives.

1 John 5:12 He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life.

John 1:4 In Him was life, and the life was the light of men.

As followers of Jesus we have the light of life:

John 8:12 Jesus: "I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life."

So, as believers who have gathered to worship our Creator and God today, we are here to:

1 Peter 2:9 ... proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;

I want to divide our text into 2 parts:

Witnesses of the Light Walking in the Light

I. Witnesses of the Light ¹⁻⁵

Plural – “we” and “our” and “us”

12 times in these first 5 verses

When John says “we” and “our” and “us”, who is he writing about?

Certainly he is including himself, but who are the others he is referring to?

The Apostles and prophets who wrote the NT

Ephesians 2:20 [the house of God is] built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief *cornerstone*,

1 John = A.D. 85-90

Most of the NT has been written

John is saying that the writers of the NT, the Apostles and others, all speak the same thing about Jesus – about who He is.

**And what was their report about Jesus?
What was their testimony? Their witness?**

(1) That which was from the beginning,

He was from the beginning:
He was there at Creation
He was the Creator - John 1:1ff

which **we** have **heard**, which we have **seen** with our eyes, which we have **looked upon**, and **our hands have handled**, concerning the Word of life—

The Apostles and some of the other NT writers actually witnessed the Lord when He was here

This is eye-witness testimony!

It is not hearsay
It is not someone else's report
It is not something we read in a book
“We are writing books about we saw for ourselves!”

John: “Our testimony is about real history!

It is historical fact!

It is the record of what really happened!

Think about John for just a moment.

He was with Jesus from the beginning days of His ministry:

- he saw Him perform miracles
- he heard His preaching and teaching
- he was on the mountain when Jesus was transfigured ...
- his feet were washed by Jesus in the upper room
- he was there near Jesus in the Garden when He prayed ...
- he saw Jesus arrested and in that same garden
- he stood near the cross with Mary ...

- he saw the resurrected Jesus with his own eyes ...
 - no doubt he embraced Him ~ prints ..., and
 - he heard Jesus teach them about Himself from the OT ⁽⁴⁰⁾
- And he saw the cloud envelope Jesus when He ascended ...

He describes Jesus as “Logos” of John 1:1 concerning the **Word** of life—

The Eternal Word of Life

(2) the life was **manifested**, and we have seen, and bear witness, and declare to you that **eternal life**

This of course is the eternal Son of God

which was with the Father and was **manifested** to us—

(3) that which we have seen and heard we **declare** to you,

report, announce, proclaim

Why?
What is the purpose of their declaring what they experienced firsthand?

that you also may have **fellowship** with us; and truly our **fellowship** is with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ.

“fellowship”

koinonia (Agape)
communion ...
a sharing
sharing something in common
a common life together
moving through life together
a mutual, fully participating
partnership

Here it is something far greater.

The fellowship John is speaking about is a spiritual fellowship.

It is fellowship with the Father and with His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ!

So, the purpose of declaring this historical truth about Jesus is, first of all, so that the readers and hearers of the truth can believe the report and have spiritual fellowship with the Father and with His son, the Lord Jesus Christ.

Second:

So our joy may be full!

(4) And these things we write to you that your joy may be full.

One other purpose in writing:

5:13 These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, **that you may know** that you have eternal life, and that you may *continue to* believe in the name of the Son of God.

1 John = Assurance!

Joy!

Summary:

holy, holy, holy

(5) This is the message which we have heard from Him and declare to you, that God is light and in Him is no darkness at all.

So that is the testimony of actual eyewitnesses of the Light! ...

We bear witness, we declare to you what we heard, what we saw, what we looked upon, and what we handled with our hands!

Dietrich Bonhoeffer

Pastor in Germany during the time of Hitler

Stood up for the Jews

Was imprisoned and hung in April 1945 ...

Wrote a book several years before going to prison

Life Together

about the fellowship we have with each other as believers

“The presence of other Christians is a source of incomparable joy and strength to the believer, a physical sign of the gracious presence of the triune God. They receive and meet each other as one meets the Lord – in reverence, humility and joy. How inexhaustible are the riches that open for those who by God’s will are privileged to live in the daily fellowship of life with other Christians.”

“Therefore, let him who until now has had the privilege of living a common Christian life with other Christians praise God’s grace from the bottom of his heart, thank God on his knees and declare, ‘It is grace, it is nothing but grace, that we are allowed to live in a community with other brethren.’”

If we walk in the light, first of all:

we have fellowship with one another.

and second,

(7b) ... the blood of Jesus

Christ His Son **cleanses** us goes on cleansing
from **all sin**.

In verses 8-10, John gets very practical about what it means to walk in the light.

How do we walk in the light?

What you have in these 3 verses is a Biblical sandwich.

vv. 8, 10 are the bread

v. 9 is the meat of the sandwich –

the very heart of what it means to walk in the light.

vv. 8, 10 describe someone who has not been converted

(8) If we say that **we have no sin**, we **deceive** ourselves, and the **truth is not in us**.

(10) If we say that **we have not sinned**, we **make Him a liar**, and His **word is not in us**.

(9) If we **confess** our **sins**,

homolegeo – say the same ...
go on confessing – individual sins
continual part of a believer's life **TO GOD**

He is **faithful** and **just** to forgive us *our* sins

He will be faithful to forgive us because that's His character ...

He is justified in forgiving us because Jesus satisfied the penalty in our place

and to **cleanse** us

go on cleansing us
{Peter – when Jesus was washing his feet ...}

from **all** unrighteousness.

This is wonderful!

Let me ask you:

Is this part of your life on an ongoing basis?

**A big part of walking in the light is that we would be:
continually confessing our sins**

**It is one of the marks of a genuine convert –
someone who has been genuinely born again –
someone who has been genuinely converted**

**Then in the first 2 verses of chapter 2, John wants to make
it clear that believers must not take sin lightly.**

**Someone might get the idea from what he has just said at
the end of chapter 1 that sin is no big deal –**

**if you sin, it's no big deal
you just confess it and go on your merry way**

So John to dispel that misconception John writes:

(2:1) My little children, these things I write to you, **so that you may not sin**. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous.

“Don’t think that I am minimizing sin. I’m not. But, if anyone sins, and everyone does, we have someone who will speak to the Father on our behalf. And He is someone who has standing in the high court of heaven before the throne of the God of the universe.

And after saying that, just in case any of his readers might still have some faulty thinking that sin isn’t serious with God, John writes:

(2) And He Himself is the **propitiation** for our sins, Jesus placated God's holy wrath toward sin and toward us because of our sin.

and not for ours only but also for the whole world. people of all kinds from all over the world ~ not every person

Sin is so serious, God had to send His Son to die a horrible death to pay the penalty in our place, so He could forgive us.

Conclusion

So, this is how we walk in the light:

We take sins seriously.

When we become aware of the sins in our lives – we confess them and keep short accounts with the Lord.

We confess them daily – immediately.

If we go periods of time without doing that –

v. 6 tells us we are walking in darkness

and not practicing the truth that is in us – the truth we know.

If we are continually confessing our sins –

We are walking in the light.

The blood of Jesus Christ is continually cleansing us from all sin.

That's what we rejoice in as we come to the Lord's table today.