

INTRODUCTION

1. Please take God's Word and turn with me to 1 John chapter 1.
2. Last Sunday we began a study in this wonderful letter written by the Apostle John to Christians living in Asia Minor.
3. This morning we are looking at one verse and it's verse 5.
4. It says, "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."
5. John now narrows in on the entire premise of the book and his declaration comes from Jesus Christ.
6. He says "the message which we heard from Him (Christ)" is "God is light!"

LESSON

I. God is Light (v.5a)

A. This is What John Heard from Jesus

“This is the message which we have **heard** from Him.”

“Heard” (perfect tense)

The message that John and the other apostles preached came from Jesus not from men.

Galatians 1:11-12 (NKJV) ¹¹ But I make known to you, brethren, that the gospel which was preached by me ***is not according to man.*** ¹² For I neither received it from man, nor was I taught it, but ***it came through the revelation of Jesus Christ.***

1. John has already declared what he “heard...from the beginning” -- the gospel message (v.1)
2. He has already declared that “eternal life which was with the Father and was manifested to us” (v.2)

3. He has already declared what he has “seen and heard...that you also may have fellowship with us” (v.3)
4. He now declares again what he heard -- God is light.
5. There is no reference of Jesus saying this in Scripture.
6. There were though many things Jesus did and said that were not written down according to John 20:30.
7. What did Jesus mean when He said that God is light?
8. Note that we are not told that God is a light but that He is light.
9. Light is part of His essence, as is love (1 John 4:8).
10. According to Scripture, light refers to truth, holiness, and purity:

a) In Proverbs 6:23 (NKJV) light refers to truth when it says, “For ***the commandment is a lamp***, and ***the law a light***.”

Both phrases are saying the same thing. His commandment and law is “light” or “truth.”

b) In Psalms 119:130 (NKJV) light is also referred to as truth when it says, “The entrance of ***Your words gives light***; It gives understanding to the simple.”

c) In Romans 13:12-14 (NKJV) light refers to holiness and purity:¹² The night is far spent, the day is at hand. Therefore let us cast off the works of darkness, and let us ***put on the armor of light***.¹³ Let us walk properly, as in the day, not in revelry and drunkenness, not in lewdness and lust, not in strife and envy.¹⁴ But ***put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to fulfill its lusts***.

B. This is What Jesus Declared of God

1. He is called “the Father of lights” (Jas. 1:17)

2. He is called “everlasting light” (Isa.60:19)
3. He says in Isaiah 45:7, “I form the light.”
4. He says in 1 Timothy 6:16 that He dwells in “unapproachable light.”

C. This is What Jesus Declared of Himself

1. He is called “the Light of the world” (Jn.8:12)
2. He is called “the true Light which gives light to every man coming into the world” (Jn.1:9)

D. Light is the Character of God

The message is that God is completely, unreservedly, absolutely holy, with no admixture of sin, no taint of iniquity, and no hint of injustice.

He is as Isaiah 6:3 (NKJV) says, “Holy, holy, holy.”

This is called the trishagion, which means simply the “three times holy.” (Sproul, R. C. The Holiness of God).

It’s mentioned three times for emphasis.

Only once in sacred Scripture is an attribute of God elevated to the third degree.

Only once is a characteristic of God mentioned three times in succession.

The Bible says that God is holy, holy, holy. Not that He is merely holy, or even holy, holy.

He is holy, holy, holy. The Bible never says that God is love, love, love, or mercy, mercy, mercy, or wrath, wrath, wrath, or justice, justice, justice. It does say that he is holy, holy, holy, the whole earth is full of His glory. (Sproul, R. C. The Holiness of God).

When Jesus says that God is light, He is saying that God is absolutely holy.

But what does that mean---that He is holy?

The primary meaning of holy is “separate.”

It comes from an ancient word that meant, “to cut,” or “to separate.”

To translate this basic meaning into contemporary language would be to use the phrase “a cut apart.”

Perhaps even more accurate would be the phrase “a cut above something.”

When we find a garment or another piece of merchandise that is outstanding, that has a superior excellence, we use the expression that it is “a cut above the rest.” (Sproul, R. C. The Holiness of God).

God is “a cut above the rest.” He is “separate.”

That is the first meaning of “holy.”

The second meaning is He is “without sin.”

Psalms 5:4 (NKJV) For You are not a God who takes pleasure in wickedness, nor shall evil dwell with You.

James 1:13 (NKJV) Let no one say when he is tempted, “I am tempted by God”; for God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does He Himself tempt anyone.

He is literally “untemptable.”

Why? Because He is without sin.

Sin is not an attraction to His nature. It is repulsive.

1 John 1:5 continues by saying...

II. God Has No Darkness in Him At All (v.5b)

A. There is No Error or Evil in God

1. John's statement is a double negative in Greek.
2. That is the strongest negative possible.
3. John is saying that God is absolutely perfect. He is without blemish or sin. There is nothing in His character to impinge upon the absolute character of light.
4. So 1 John 1:5 describes the essential character of God.
5. It describes the essential distinction between the true and the false, the good and the evil, the holy and the sinful, and the innocent and the guilty.
6. The Greek text of 1 John 1:5 literally says there is not a single bit of darkness in God (MacArthur).

7. Michael Wilkins says, “The Bible entertains no thought that darkness is equal in power to God’s light. God is the absolute sovereign who rules over the darkness and the powers of evil” (Baker’s Evangelical Dictionary of Biblical Theology).
8. God takes no pleasure in sin (Ps.5:4)
9. He cannot look on sin - Habakkuk 1:13 (NKJV)
You are of purer eyes than to behold evil, and cannot look on wickedness.
10. He cannot be tempted with sin (Jas.1:13)

B. Darkness is in Direct Opposition to God

“Darkness evokes everything that is anti-God (Wilkins).

1. It is against what is right

Proverbs 2:13-15 (NKJV) From those who leave the paths of uprightness to walk in the ways of darkness; ¹⁴ who rejoice in doing evil, and delight in the perversity of the wicked; ¹⁵ whose ways are crooked, and who are devious in their paths.

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

2. It is where people who reject God will spend eternity

Matthew 8:12 (NKJV) ¹² But the sons of the kingdom will be cast out into outer darkness. There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.”

CONCLUSION

I once read a story that depicted the believer’s relationship to God and I want to read it to you as we close:

It said, “One day, I woke up early in the morning to watch the sunrise. Ah, the beauty of God’s creation is beyond description. As I watched, I praised God for His beautiful work. As I sat there, I felt the Lord’s presence with me. He asked me, ‘Do you love me?’ I answered, ‘Of course, God! You are my Lord and Savior!’

Then He asked, ‘If you were physically handicapped, would you still love me?’ I was perplexed. I looked down upon my

arms, legs and the rest of my body and wondered how many things I wouldn't be able to do, the things that I took for granted. Then I thought of the many people who were handicapped and yet still lived for the Lord. And I answered, 'Yes, Lord, I would still love You.' Then the Lord said, 'If you were blind, would you still love my creation?' How could I love something without being able to see it? Then I thought of all the blind people in the world and how many of them still loved God and His creation. So I answered, 'It's hard to think of it, but I would still love You.'

The Lord then asked me, 'If you were deaf, would you still listen to My word?' How could I listen to anything being deaf? Then I understood. Listening to God's Word is not merely using your ears, but our hearts. I answered, 'It would be tough, but I would still listen to Your word.'

The Lord then asked, 'If you were mute, would you still praise My name? How could I praise without a voice? Then it occurred to me: God wants us to sing from our very heart and soul. It never matters what we sound like. And praising God is not always with a song, but when we are persecuted, we give God praise with our words of thanks. So I answered, 'Though I could not physically sing, I would still praise Your Name.'

And the Lord asked, 'Do you really love Me?' With courage and strong conviction, I answered boldly, 'Yes, Lord! I love You,

because You are the one and true God! I thought I had answered well, but God asked, 'Then why do you sin?' I answered, 'Because I am only human. I am not perfect.' 'Then why in times of peace do you stray the furthest? Why only in times of trouble do you pray the most earnest?' No answers. Only tears. The Lord continued: 'Why only sing at fellowships and retreats? Why seek Me only in times of worship? Why ask things so selfishly? Why ask things so unfaithfully? The tears continued to roll down my cheeks. 'Why are you ashamed of Me? Why are you not spreading the Good News? Why, in times of persecution, do you cry to others when I offer My shoulder to cry on? Why make excuses when I give you opportunities to serve in My name? I tried to answer, but there was no answer to give. 'You are blessed with life. I made you not to throw this gift away. I have blessed you with talents to serve Me, but you continue to turn away. I have revealed My word to you, but you do not gain in knowledge. I have spoken to you, but your ears were closed. I have shown My blessings to you, but your eyes were turned away. I have sent you servants, but you sat idly by as they were pushed away. I have heard your prayers, and I have answered them all.'

'Do you truly love Me?' I could not answer. How could I? I was embarrassed beyond belief. I had no excuse. What could I say to this? When I had cried my heart out and the tears had flowed, I said, 'Please forgive me, Lord. I am unworthy to be Your child.' The Lord answered, 'That is My grace, My child.' I

asked, 'Then why do You continue to forgive me? Why do you love me so? The Lord answered, 'Because you are My creation. You are My child. I will never abandon you. When you cry, I will have compassion and cry with you. When you shout with joy, I will laugh with you. When you are down, I will encourage you. When you fall, I will raise you up. When you are tired, I will carry you. I will be with you till the end of days, and I will love you forever.' Never had I cried so hard before. How could I have been so cold? How could I have hurt God as I had done? I asked God, 'How much do You love me?' The Lord stretched out His arms, and I saw His nail-pierced hands. I bowed down at the feet of Christ, My Savior. And for the first time, I truly prayed."

Let's pray.