

## **1 John 1:5-7**

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. If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. 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. *NKJV*

Because God has made Himself known to us through Jesus Christ, what exactly does He want us to know about Him? John claims to have a “message” that he, along with the other disciples, heard from Him. (v. 5) And John doesn’t want to keep that message to himself, he wants to “declare” it!

The message that John is faithfully delivering is that “God is light and in Him is no darkness at all.” That’s quite a message! In its simplicity, it still causes many to stumble and be confused upon hearing this profound message. It’s not meant to be confusing or a code language. It’s God’s way of relating some very important information about Himself to us. **God is light...without any darkness.**

In John’s earlier writing, *the Gospel of John*, he records Christ’s own words, *Then Jesus spoke to them again, saying, “I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life.” (John 8:12)*

This gives further integrity to the message that John is about to declare. He hasn’t changed it. He hasn’t contextualized it. He hasn’t left anything out. He is a faithful messenger of what Christ had revealed about Himself. Now we can expect that everything that John writes in his book can be measured up against God’s revelation about Himself through the Person *and* Words of Jesus Christ.

**Because God is light He is characterized by Truth.** John explains that to walk in light is to walk in truth. (v. 6-7) Light is not mere “information” or even being “enlightened” about some revelation apart from God. It is not the act of looking within for one’s “self.” The light that John speaks of has an exclusive source, God. And it is His very own character. Truth.

Since light is truth, John says darkness is error or evil. **When John speaks of light he is speaking of truth, but not just truth as mere information, but the truth of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.**

We all deal in realms of information, facts. This is not what the Truth is that John purposes to write about. He is not authoring a documentary or merely relaying amoral information. (*ammoral = not dealing in the realm of “right and wrong”*) He has set out to faithfully declare the message that God is Truth, that He is *the* Truth and that everyone is called to live in the reality of Truth that is not found in amoral information.

**Since God is light, He has graciously conveyed that light to us through His Son Jesus Christ.** If we are to behold God, if we are to understand Him, if we are to receive the light of His revelation, then we are to find it in Jesus Christ and believe on Him in faith. Who Jesus Christ is, and what He has done is the light that God desires to share with us. Many will refuse to look upon that light from God, but nevertheless Christ shines forth in the radiance of God’s glory as Truth.

**In God is no error or concealing of truth. He is completely trustworthy.** He has no capacity to mislead or misguide. That God is the Truth means that all must reconcile themselves to Him. Those who accept the truth that God delivers to them have fellowship with Him. This fellowship is based upon a relationship with Him that is founded upon truth. It is a relationship that is entered into and maintained by the person who reconciles their life to Truth, to God. That one whose life demonstrates by its beliefs and actions that it is not compatible with Truth is one who “walk[s] in darkness...and do not practice the truth.” (v. 6).

## LIFE APPLICATION QUESTIONS

1. According to 2 Cor. 4:3-4, who is trying to conceal the light / truth of God in the hearts of mankind?

*But even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing, whose minds the god of this age has blinded, who do not believe, lest the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine on them.*

2. The Psalmist speaks of God and light. What does he say about light and life in Psalm 36:9?

*For with You is the fountain of life; In Your light we see light.*

3. Can one experience true life without the true light? See John 8:12

*"I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life.*

4. What does the word "walk" mean in this context? See also 1 John 2:9-11

5. Those who walk in light once walked in darkness. There was a change in their life according to Eph. 5:8. What changed?

*For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light*

*See also...*

*Col. 1:12-14*

*giving thanks to the Father who has qualified us to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in the light. He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love,*

*in whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins.*

6. The message that John delivers is as reliable as when Christ was walking the earth and it speaks of the reliability of God in truth. Can the message be trusted? Can God be trusted to tell the truth?
7. Are you walking in "true" truth? Living in the reality of yourself before God as revealed by the Word of God? Will you continue to keep an open heart to what the Word of God reveals to you in this study?

CAPITOL SQUARE COMMUNITY MID-WEEK BIBLE STUDY

Staff, Lobbyists & Capitol Community Welcome

Statehouse Room #44 ~ Wednesdays, 12:00