

Study #2 1 John 1:5-2:2

John's Purpose Statement – 1 John 5:13—“¹³ I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life.”

REVIEW

→ Read 1 John 1:1-4

¹ That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we looked upon and have touched with our hands, concerning the Word of Life—² the life was made manifest, and we have seen it, and testify to it and proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and was made manifest to us—³ that which we have seen and heard we proclaim also to you, so that you too may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. ⁴ And we are writing these things so that our joy may be complete.”

TODAY'S PASSAGE

→ 1 John 1:5-2:2

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.

⁶ If we say we have fellowship with him while we 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 his Son cleanses us from all sin.

⁸ If we say 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 we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us. **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. ² He is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.

OBSERVATION QUESTIONS

1. What words are repeated?
2. Reading vs. 6, 8, & 10 – what words do they all begin with? Are they followed by something positive or negative?
3. Reading vs. 7, 9, 2:1 – what actions are followed by “if we/anyone”? Are they followed by something positive or negative?
4. Do you observe a repeated sentence structure? If so, what do you observe?

→ **1 John 1:5** – “⁵This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all.”

5. How does v. 5 relate to vs. 1-4?
6. What is “the message”? From whom did they hear it?

Read the following verses from the Gospel of John to see when the apostles heard this “message.”

John 8:12 – “Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.”

John 12:46 – “I have come into the world as light, so that whoever believes in me may not remain in darkness.”

John 1: 4-5, 9 – “⁴In Him was life, and the life was the Light of men. ⁵The Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it...⁹There was the true Light which, coming into the world, enlightens every man.”

7. What does “God is light and in Him there is no darkness at all” tell us about the character of God?

Read the following verses and discuss how they deepen our understanding of “God is Light.”

Psalm 36:9 – “For with You is the fountain of life; In Your light we see light.”

John 1:4 – “⁴In [Jesus Christ] was life, and the life was the light of men.”

John 8:12 – “Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.”

Psalm 119:105 – “Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.”

Psalm 119:130 - “The unfolding of Your words gives light; It gives understanding to the simple.”

Ephesians 5:8-9- “⁸...for you were formerly darkness, but now you are Light in the Lord; walk as children of Light ⁹(for the fruit of the Light *consists* in all goodness and righteousness and truth)...”

→ **1 John 1:6-7**—“⁶If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. ⁷But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin.

8. Reading v. 6...

What is this person’s claim?

What is this person doing?

What does this person’s walk show?

9. Reading v. 7...

What is this person doing?

Who is the “he” in “if we walk in the light, as **he** is in the light”?

What are the two outcomes of walking in the light?

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→ **1 John 1:8-9**—“⁸If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. ⁹If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”

10. Reading vs. 8...

What is this person's claim?

In what way is this person deceiving himself?

What is not in this person? Why?

11. Reading v. 9...

What is this person's attitude toward sin?

What is the two-fold result of this person's confession of sins?

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Who does the forgiveness and cleansing?

What two attributes are given to the one who forgives and cleanses?

→ **1 John 1:10-2:2**—“¹⁰If we say we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us. **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. ² He is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.”

12. What claim is this person making in v. 10?

Read these verses to see what God has to say about sin...

Ephesians 2:1-3—“ And you were dead in the trespasses and sins ²in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience— ³among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind.”

Mark 7:20-23—“²⁰ And he said, “What comes out of a person is what defiles him. ²¹ For from within, out of the heart of man, come evil thoughts, sexual immorality, theft, murder, adultery, ²² coveting, wickedness, deceit, sensuality, envy, slander, pride, foolishness. ²³ All these evil things come from within, and they defile a person.”

Ecclesiastes 7:20 —²⁰ Surely there is not a righteous man on earth who does good and never sins.”

Romans 3:9-12, 23—“For we have already charged that all, both Jews and Greeks, are under sin, ¹⁰ as it is written: “None is righteous, no, not one; ¹¹ no one understands; no one seeks for God. ¹² All have turned aside; together they have become worthless; no one does good, not even one... ²³ for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,”

Having read those verses, why is this person’s claim so wrong?

13. Looking back at 1 John 2:1, what reason does John give for writing these things? What does that communicate?

14. “If anyone does sin” (which we all do), God has made a provision for that sin. In whom is this provision found?

What three things is Jesus called?

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15. Fill in the blank: “Jesus is the _____ for our sins.” Read the following passages to gain a better understanding of what John is saying.

2 Corinthians 5:21 — ²¹ For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.”

Romans 3:21-26—²¹ But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it— ²² the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction: ²³ for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, ²⁴ and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, ²⁵ **whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith.** This was to show God's righteousness, **because in his divine forbearance he had passed over former sins.** ²⁶ It was to show his righteousness at the present time, so that he might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.”

Hebrews 9:24-28—²⁴ For Christ has entered, not into holy places made with hands, which are copies of the true things, but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God on our behalf. ²⁵ Nor was it to offer himself repeatedly, as the high priest enters the holy places every year with blood not his own, ²⁶ for then he would have had to suffer repeatedly since the foundation of the world. **But as it is, he has appeared once for all at the end of the ages to put away sin by**

the sacrifice of himself. ²⁷ And just as it is appointed for man to die once, and after that comes judgment, ²⁸ so **Christ, having been offered once to bear the sins of many,** will appear a second time, not to deal with sin but to save those who are eagerly waiting for him.”

16. Read the verse below to help understand the end of v. 2 “...and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.” Whose sins are forgiven?

John 3:16-18—¹⁶ “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. ¹⁷ For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. ¹⁸ Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God.”

TEACHING NOTES

1. The fundamental truth: **GOD IS _____ (1:5)**

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2. The wrong claims about sin (1:6-2:2)

a. **Claim: Sin does not break our fellowship with God (vs. 6-7)**

b. **Claim: Sin does not exist in our nature (vs. 8-9)**

c. **Claim: Sin does not show itself in our conduct (vs. 10-2:2)**

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. How does the fundamental truth that “God is light and in him there is no darkness” impact our thoughts about God and our worship of Him?
2. People want fellowship with God on easy terms. In what ways are the erroneous views of sin that we studied today common to people?
3. How does sin break our fellowship with God? How can we have fellowship with Him?
4. What is confession of sin? How is it the proper attitude toward sin? What does your confession of sin to God look like?

NEXT WEEK: 1 John 2:3-11