**FINDING GOD’S LOVE IN A TROUBLED WORLD – “Walk in the Light”**

How can we experience the light of God’s love in a world of darkness?

Last week:

**A look at the “John” of 1st John.**

* This is John the apostle who wrote 5 books of the New Testament (Gospel of John, 1,2,& 3 John and Revelation).

His books were the latest written among NT entries and his letters were written around the turn of the century 95-100AD

* He and his older brother James were among the first apostles to follow Jesus and nicknamed “Sons of Thunder”

Their parent were Zebedee and Salome, and they lived in Galilee just like Peter and Andrew.

* Peter, James and John made up the “inner-circle” of Jesus’ confidantes
* He was said to be the youngest of the original 12 apostles and the oldest surviving member of that group.
* John refers to himself as the “apostle whom Jesus loved, because he clearly saw and wrote about Jesus’ love more than anything else.

Last Week’s Text:

**1 John 1:3**We proclaim to you what we have seen and heard, so that you also may have fellowship with us. And our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ. **4**We write this to make ourjoy complete.

Similar to his gospel…

**John 15:9-11**“As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. **10**If you keep my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commands and remain in his love. **11**I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete.

***STEP #1 TO FINDING GOD’S LOVE IN A TROUBLED WORLD:***

***Know the love of the Father so that your Joy may be complete!***

**This week “Walk in the Light”**

**Just as the most important thing in this world is GOD’S LOVE,**

**the method by which God’s love flows from He to us, us to Him and us to each other, is through RELATIONSHIPS.**

Relationships are the purpose of our existence here on earth.

Relationships (with God an each other) are the very way we give and receive love.

I believe God created the earth and all that is in it, so he can create us. He created us for the purpose of love (to love and be loved by), and we do that through relationships.

Jesus’ Greatest commandment: “Love God and Love each other”. *(Matt 22:36-40)*

Once God created the earth and all that was in it, it was perfect. He loved them, they loved Him, they loved each other and everything was great, until one thing happened.

Do you know what it was?

**SIN!**

Sin entered the world, and everything was ruined.

Why? Because sin has one purpose, to destroy relationships.

(remember, relationships are what we are created for).

Every sin, regardless of what it is, has one effect, it destroys relationships. Either with God, or with each other.

Lust, Pride, Greed – ALL will have destructive effects on your relationship with God OR with someone else.

The Devil (Ruler of darkness – Eph 6:12) knows that the greatest commandment is “to love God and love each other”, so he uses “Sin” to try to keep that from happening.

Keep that in mind as we read our text from 1st John 1.

TEXT:

1st John 1:5-10 & 2:

**5**This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you: God is light; in him there is no darkness at all. **6**If we claim to have fellowship with him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live out 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, purifies us from allsin.

**8**If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. **9**If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. **10**If we claim we have not sinned, we make him out to be a liar and his word is not in us.

**2**My dear children, I write this to you so that you will not sin. But if anybody does sin, we have an advocate with the Father—Jesus Christ, the Righteous One. **2**He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world.

*Gospel Correlation -*

**JOHN 1:4-5 4**In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. **5**The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcomeit.

THE LIGHT

1 John 1:5 “God is light; in him there is no darkness at all.”

John makes a direct connection with God and Light, in fact he deifies the word LIGHT, “God is Light” just like he does with LOVE in 1st John 4:8 “God is love”.

There is something very significant about John’s use of the word LIGHT. He uses the word Darkness to describe the absence of God, and “Light” to describe where the presence of God is.

In fact, do you know the very first thing that God created when He moved over the face of the deep???

**LIGHT**

Gen 1:1-4

In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. **2**The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.

**3**And God said, “Let there be light,” and there was light. **4**And God saw that the light was good. And God separated the light from the darkness.

“Yehi Or” - Let there be light! (the first words spoken by God in the Bible).

This was more than just turning on the light switch, God was penetrating and overcoming the darkness that existed in what was a void and formless world.

He was creating order with His presence, and his presence is light, with no darkness at all.

John uses the word light throughout his letters to describe God’s presence and His love.

Jesus described himself as light, and promised the light of life to all who follow him.

JOHN 8:12 “I am the [light of the world](https://www.gotquestions.org/light-of-the-world.html). Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life”.

**Focus on Verse 7**

**7**But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another…

***{movie analogy ]***

This is how some of us live our lives. We are surrounded by the darkness of our sin, that we have impeded our ability to have true fellowship with each other and with God.

We feel alone.

We feel isolated and far from God.

We have a difficult time finding true fellowship with others.

What if someone stepped in and turned on the light?

We would suddenly realize that we are not alone, that we are not isolated, we are in a room full of friends.

That’s what happens when we walk in the light…

 **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, purifies us from allsin.

The good news about sin, is not that sin is good.

No, it’s really the worst thing in the world.

It’s basically the only problem of this world. (think about it).

Sin however, is not just a violation of the rules.

It’s not just being guilty of arbitrary religious laws.

It’s willingly doing something that will hurt a relationship, with God or other people.

That’s what’s so bad about it.

(God is not arbitrary) He doesn’t choose sin randomly.

The good news is that Jesus died so that the sin issue would be put away with once and for all, and relationship can be restored.

*Verse 9*

***9****If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.*

When we know that our sins are forgiven, we have freedom and joy, and it’s contagious. We gravitate toward others who are also “forgiven sinners”, and have true fellowship with them. Not because we have all achieved some high level of spiritual monasticism, but because we are all “sinners saved by grace” and we know it, we deserve death but were given life and live in constant gratitude and celebration of God’s love in this troubled world. That is what it means to “Walk in the Light as He is in the Light”.

PROBLEM:

Many of us walk in darkness, not confessing our sin to God, not experiencing forgiveness and restoration and basically not wanting to face a God who loves us and wants nothing more than to restore us into a relationship of enjoyment with Him.

Some of us, remain in darkness, hiding our face from God and forfeiting moments of fellowship with Him and each other. We live lives overcome by shame and guilt without ever experiencing the grace and mercy that God desperately wants to bestow upon us.

As parents, when our children do something wrong, we want them to feel remorse, but we don’t want them to be overcome by shame and guilt.

[ VIDEO of cooper the dog.]

God is the Father of Kindness, he’s our dad.

When we sin he wants to pull us out of darkness, forgive us and restore us, so that we don’t have to live lives of shame and guilt.

***STEP #2 TO FINDING GOD’S LOVE IN A TROUBLED WORLD:***

***Walk in the Light as He is in the Light!***

**2 Cor. 5:18-21**

**18**Now all things *are* of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation, **19**that is, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not counting people’s sins against them, and has committed to us the ministry of reconciliation.

**20**Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us: we implore *you* on Christ’s behalf, be reconciled to God. **21**For He made Him who knew no sin *to be* sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.