



LIGHT & DARKNESS

1John 1:1-2:11

WALKING IN THE LIGHT

Background on 1 John

- Letter in the New Testament
- Author:
 - 2 John and 3 John - “the elder”
 - Gospel of John
 - Author: “the disciple whom Jesus loved” (21:20)

Background on 1 John

- Author: Disciple John, in his old age, overseeing a network of churches in Ephesus
- “Poetic sermon”
- Lack of Old Testament connections
- Written during a crisis: church splinter

Background on 1 John

- Two main themes:
 - God is light
 - God is love

Our passage this morning

- **1 John 1:1-4: Introduction**
- **1 John 1:5-2:2: Light and dark**

1 John 1:1-4: Introduction

- **Begins with the word “what”**
- **1 John 1:1: What was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have perceived, and our hands have touched—this we proclaim about the Word of Life**

1 John 1:1-4: Introduction

- **“which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked at...”**
- **Seen and perceived**
 - **Requires interpretation**
- **John is establishing his credentials, bearing witness**
- **In a community, “we”**
 - ***koinonia* - fellowship**

1 John 1:1-4: Introduction

- **John is bearing witness to who Jesus is and inviting the hearers of this letter to bear witness to Jesus as well, together as a community**

1 John 1:5-2:2: Light & Dark

- v.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.”
- Light:
 - 'ôr - light; tôrâ - law, God's teachings
 - Walking in light - following God

1 John 1:5-2:2: Light & Dark

- v.5: “God is light”
 - “I am the light of the world...” (John 8:12)
 - “Let there be light” (Gen. 1:3)
 - “The people walking in darkness have seen a great light” (Isaiah 9:2)
 - “The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.” (John 1:5)

1 John 1:5-2:2: Light & Dark

- Walking:
 - Well-known metaphor - how one lives
 - John Mark Comer: “To follow Jesus... [means] to walk alongside him in a posture of listening, learning, observation, obedience, and imitation.”

1 John 1:5-2:2: Light & Dark

- Difference between a life consistently lived in darkness and consistently lived in light
 - We will sin, v. 8: “If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves...”

1 John 1:5-2:2: Light & Dark

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

1 John 1:5-2:2: Light & Dark

- 2:1-2: “But if anybody does sin, we have an advocate with the Father—Jesus Christ, the Righteous One. He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world.”

1 John 1:5-2:2: Light & Dark

- Sacrificial system to atone for sin
 - Atone: to make amends, demonstrate repentance
- Jesus is “the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!” (John 1:29)
- “Jesus Christ... atonement for our sins” (2:1-2)

1 John 1:5-2:2: Light & Dark

- Greek word: *hilasmos* - atonement, only used by John
- 1 John 4:10: “This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins.”
- It's always been about God's love

Takeaways...

1. Bear witness to Jesus Christ

- **Ephesians 3:17-18: "...And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ"**

Takeaways...

2. Choose to walk in the light

3. Confess

- **"If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins" (v.9)**

Prayer of Confession

Leader: The prophet speaks of the coming light of God which calls all the people of the earth to come together in God's realm of shalom.

Let us confess the ways in which we have rejected God's vision of wholeness.

[pause for silent confession]

Prayer of Confession

Leader: Let's pray together...

Everyone: God of light and darkness, we have seen the glimmer of your light beckoning to us, but we have turned away and followed other paths.

Prayer of Confession

Everyone: We confess that we have not loved you with all our heart, with all our soul, with all our mind, and with all our strength.

We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.

Prayer of Confession

Everyone: Forgive us, Holy One.

Strengthen our faltering steps and guide us in your holy way of peace. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

Leader: Lift up your eyes and see the grace of God poured out into your lives.

Everyone: The light of God shines through the darkness. Our hearts rejoice for Christ is with us.

Assurance of Pardon

Leader: In the name of Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world, Amen.