**1 John Friday Night Bible Study July 24, 2020**

**Place of the Passage**

John begins his epistle by establishing his authority (and by extent those who preach and teach the gospel like him) and previewing his message, summarized by verse 5, “God is light…” and how this message applies to sinners.

**The Big Picture**

The gospel message that reminds us that we are sinful (walk in darkness), yet fellowship with Christ (walking in the light) means that our sin are forgiven.

**Passage — 1 John 1:1-10**

**1** That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked at and our hands have touched—this we proclaim concerning the Word of life.

**2** The life appeared; we have seen it and testify to it, and we proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and has appeared to us.

**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.

**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.

**Truth for Today**

**WALKING IN THE DARKNESS.** Sin plagues us humans. John teaches us that sin is what separates us from God. Walking in the darkness essentially is living in unrepentant sin. John continues telling us that if we say we are Christians, but walk in the darkness, or continue sinning without repentance and remorse, we are just fooling ourselves. These people love the darkness, lying to others, him/herself, and God. Christians, real Christians, flee the darkness, dodging temptation at every turn, making every effort to not fall into sin. On the flip side, people who think they are without sin, are lying still (as opposed to those who do sin, but lie about it). They walk in the darkness as well for they do not repent of their sin, which they wrongly think they are without. Christians, real Christians, make every effort to identify what they have done to offend Almighty God, are not afraid to confess their sin, and are wholly ready to repent.

**WALKING IN THE LIGHT.** “God is light and in him there is no darkness at all.” (V6). This is the premise for John’s opening words to us in 1 John. “God is light…” has major implications for the Christian life. John contrasts the light and darkness to show that living in sin is the oppose of what God desires for humans. Walking in the light is simply saying that we walk in obedience to God’s word which detail his will and desire for us. Walking in the light means we have fellowship with God himself. This is accomplished through the cleansing of our sin through Christ’s blood…he died in our place to restore peace between the individual and God shedding his blood on our behalf. Fellowship does not end there; we have fellowship also with others who walk in the light.

**FELLOWSHIP**. John tends to use descriptive terms in his epistles in order to evoke richer experiences of the things he describes. One example of this is his word choice for describing the church in 1:3–4, 6–7. John describes the church as the assembly of those who hear and believe the testimony of the apostles. He uses the term “fellowship” (four times!) to describe these assemblies rather than the normal term “church.” The Greek word is *koinōnia,* and it refers to more than casual friendship. The Greek term indicates a partnership in which each member takes a stake in the success of the whole. John uses this term to describe the nature of the church as a society whose members have mutual duties to one another. Of course, when John talks about our fellowship with God, he does not mean we have a symbiotic relationship (you scratch my back, I scratch yours), but that the relationship between creator and creature is restored so that the creature continues to be sovereignly governed by God and that God be properly glorified by his creation.