

Sunday Sermon Notes

"Lighten Up!"

If I want to know God, I must know Jesus!

The message John declares:

God is light

Light reveals truth

Light brings justice

Light expresses holiness

Light is Jesus

In him is no darkness

Darkness conceals sin

Darkness perpetuates wrongs

Darkness promotes sin

Darkness excludes Jesus

The solution to my darkness is always Jesus!

John writes what he writes: so they will not sin

Sin is always wrong

Sin always hurts someone

Sin is never excusable

Claims that just will not fly:

We have fellowship with God and walk in darkness

"I can be a Christian and live in sin"

This is a lie

We have no sin:

"What I did wasn't really wrong"

This is self-deception

We have not sinned

"Sin is not a problem for me"

This calls God's Word a lie

Three things Christians do about sin:

They stay in the presence of Jesus:

"Walk in the light, as he is in the light"

They readily admit their sins to Jesus:

"Confess our sins"

They continually trust in the provisions of Jesus:

"We have an advocate...Jesus Christ"

And what does Jesus do about our sins?

He forgives; He purifies; He fellowships

Digging Deeper

**Notes for Individual Meditation
and Small Group Discussion**

Reviewing the Sermon:

In what ways do you understand light and darkness differently than you did before hearing the sermon?

Why do you think pastor was so careful to emphasize 2:1, about not sinning? Why do you think so many Christians are so willing to tolerate sin in their lives?

Which of the claims have you heard most? Which claim would you be most likely to make?

The sermon emphasized three responses we are to make when sin has entered our lives. Which of these do you think we struggle with the most?

How has this sermon helped you to know how to deal with sin in your own life? Which of the things Jesus does about our sins do you find to be the greatest blessing and encouragement?

Bible Study: John 1:6-9

Discussion Questions

(Remember that not all questions must be used)

This passage, as was last week's Bible study, is taken from the prologue of John's gospel. This first part serves as a kind of introduction to what follows concerning the life of Jesus. In verses 6-9 the concepts of light and darkness are described.

Share some of the things with your group that you know about John the Baptist. What kind of a person do you think John must have been?

How is John described in this passage? What does it mean that John was a man "sent from God"?

What do you know about John's testimony concerning Jesus as "the light"? Read John 2:19 – 34. What are the things John says about Jesus that help us to understand who Jesus is better?

In the gospel of John, Jesus is light. In 1 John, God is light. What does this tell you about the relationship between God and Jesus?

How does John's witness help all men to believe? What does John want his hearers to believe about Jesus?

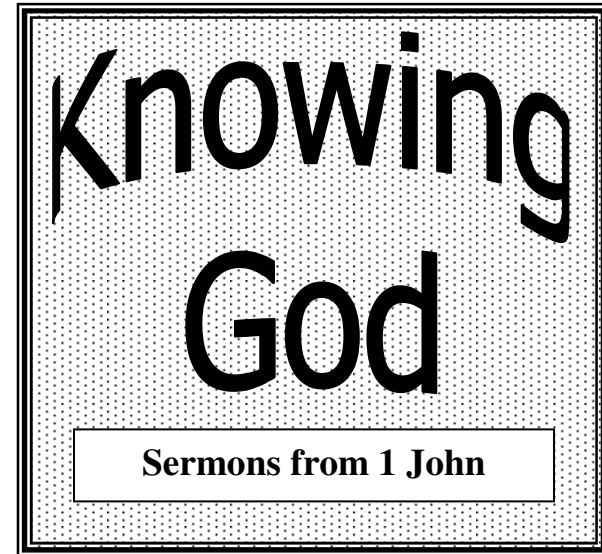
Why do you think John emphasizes that John the Baptist was not the light, but only a witness to the light? How did John serve as a witness to the light?

Verse 9 says three things about the light. He is the "true" light. He gives light to every man. He is coming into the world. Why do you think it was important to John to emphasize these things about Jesus?

How do you think this passage about Jesus being the light and the passage from the sermon about God being light are related to each other?

What impact does the idea of Jesus being light have on our lives? Why is it important for us to know that Jesus is the light?

Prayer Time: Share with the group how Jesus as Light helps you to better serve him and live a victorious life. Pray for each other to faithfully "walk in the light."



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1 John 1:5 – 2:2

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Master copy of notes and audio version of the sermon at
www.middletownnaz.com