

4We write this to make our joy complete.

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

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

1My 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. 2He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world.

3We know that we have come to know him if we keep his commands. 4Whoever says, "I know him," but does not do what he commands is a liar, and the truth is not in that person. 5But if anyone obeys his word, love for God is truly made complete in them. This is how we know we are in him: 6Whoever claims to live in him must live as Jesus did.

7Dear friends, I am not writing you a new command but an old one, which you have had since the beginning. This old command is the message you have heard. 8Yet I am writing you a new command; its truth is seen in him and in you, because the darkness is passing and the true light is already shining.

9Anyone who claims to be in the light but hates a brother or sister is still in the darkness. 10Anyone who loves their brother and sister lives in the light, and there is nothing in them to make them stumble. 11But anyone who hates a brother or sister is in the darkness and walks around in the darkness. They do not know where they are going, because the darkness has blinded them.

## Making Our Joy Complete (Sermon #2)

If We Confess

1 John 1:8-10

When I claim to have no sin

I am claiming an obvious lie  
I am deceiving only myself  
I am absent of any truth

When my denial goes rogue

Claiming having not sinned  
Discrediting God's truth  
Destroying our witness

Beginning with the truth: Taking inventory

Remembering my sin  
Naming my sin  
Owning my sin

Confession means to finally tell the truth

To myself  
To God  
To another

Confession includes repentance

I reveal it  
I regret it  
I renounce it

And now the real work begins

With God

Who is faithful: He is always there  
Who is just: Does what he says

Who forgives

Declares me not guilty  
Treats me as not guilty

And purifies

Cleanses my heart  
Transforms my life

What begins with confession

Must also continue with confession