

# The Book of 1<sup>st</sup> John

## ***“Introduction”***

### 1. CONTEXT:

**Author** - John; apostle of Jesus; previous O.J.T.  
with John the Baptist

**Audience**

- Same 7 churches of Revelation 2-3...
- Churches “under attack” by *the familiar but unfaithful* (2:19/2:26)

**Atmosphere** - cultural, philosophical, moral,  
spiritual “mess”

### 2. CONTENT:

**1 Passion:** bringing **glory to God** thru the  
sharing & spreading of the **Gospel**  
of Jesus, the Christ.

**2 Priorities:** **Define & Defend** TRUE Church

**3 Pillars:** **Truth, Love, Faithful Obedience**

**4 Purposes:**

- A. **Promote** “koinonia” / joy (1:3-4)
- B. **Prevent** sin (2:1)
- C. **Protect** VS false teachers (2:26)
- D. **Provide** “assurance” (5:13)

**5 Pragmatic Proofs:**

- A. Ch.1: **WALK** (in light vs. dark)
- B. Ch. 2: **OBEY** (vs. disobey God)
- C. Ch. 3: **PATTERN** (...the real story)
- D. Ch. 4: **WORSHIPFUL** (vs. worldly)
- E. Ch. 5: **KNOW** God (vs. “NO! God”)

3. CONCLUSION: 1<sup>st</sup> John is literally a God-given model for us to use as we champion Christ's love & light; while simultaneously combating today's modern heresies & false teachers.

**T/S:** That brings us to **today's** message...

and

My continued MISSION...

***“Get'em READY!”***

**SHOW PHOTO:** Twin Towers Wreckage



# ***"This Is What HE Said"***

1 John 1:5-10

**v.5** = *This is **the message** we have heard from Him and **proclaim** to you, that **God is Light**, and in Him there is **no darkness at all**.*

**QUESTION:** Do you believe v.5?

Would you call v.5 the "truth" or a "lie?"

## **Defining... Discipleship... Declaration!**

- *What we've heard... we proclaim.*
- *What we've seen... we share.*
- *What we've been given...we give away!*

**"message"** = promise proclaimed

- Jesus told us to tell everyone...
- (Matt. 28 & Acts 1:8)
- Jesus is God
- Jesus is Light
- Jesus is Sinless

"A real Christian is an odd number anyway. He feels supreme love for One whom he has never seen, talks familiarly every day to Someone he cannot see, expects to go to heaven on the virtue of Another, empties himself in order to be full, admits he is wrong so he can be declared right, goes down in order to get up, is strongest when he is weakest, richest when he is poorest, and happiest when he feels worst. He dies so he can live, forsakes in order to have, gives away so he can keep, sees the invisible, hears the inaudible, and knows that which surpasses knowledge."

- A.W. Tozer

**"Light"** = God's nature

= **Jesus, the (Light) / Illuminator of man**

John 1:4,5,9;

John 3:19;

**John 8:12** = *Then Jesus again spoke to them, saying, "I am the Light of the world; he who follows Me will not walk in the darkness, but will have the Light of life."*

= **Luke 16:8** = **believers are called sons of Light**

= **"the guidance of God"** (Job 29:3; Ps. 112:4; Isa. 58:10)

= **"righteousness"** (Rom. 13:12; 2 Cor. 11:14ff; 1 Jn. 2:9-10)

= **"witness for God"**

**Matt. 5:14-16** = *"You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden; **15**nor does anyone light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. **16**"Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven.*

Now CONTRAST....

**Darkness** = spiritual/moral depravity

**John \*12:35** = *So Jesus said to them, "The light is among you for a little while longer. Walk while you have the light, lest darkness overtake you. The one who walks in the darkness does not know where he is going.*

**John \*\*\*12:46\*\*\*** = *"I have come as Light into the world, so that everyone who believes in Me will not remain in darkness.*

**NOTE:** "believes" = Lordship vs. "life"

**2 Timothy 3:1-5** = (Portrait of "Dark Days")

**But mark this: There will be terrible times in the last days.**

**2**People will be.... lovers of themselves,  
lovers of money,  
boastful,  
proud,  
abusive,  
disobedient to their parents,  
ungrateful,  
unholy,  
**3**without love,  
unforgiving,  
slanderous,  
without self-control,  
brutal,  
not lovers of the good,  
**4**treacherous,  
rash,  
conceited,  
lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God—  
**5**having a form of godliness but denying its power.  
**Have nothing to do with such people.**

**T/S:** “nothing” & “at all” go together...

**"at all"** (no darkness) = SQUAT! Zip! Zilch! NADA...

**NOTE:** v.5 = **1 Passion:**  
the glory of God...  
thru the sharing of the Gospel...

**v.6** = *If we say that we have **fellowship with Him** and yet **walk in the darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth;***

## **2 Priorities:** **Define & Defend the true Church**

God's Word declares that we are defined by our walk... regardless of our talk. – JDP

**"Walk"** = the totality of one's life actions & attitudes... It speaks the truth about a person's spiritual signature. .

**1 Corinthians 7:17** = *Only, as the Lord has assigned to each one, as God has called each, in this manner let him walk. And so I direct in all the churches.*

**Colossians 2:6** = *Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him,*

### **NOTE: How-to Walk AND How NOT to Walk...**

- 1 Cor. 3:3 = not after the manner of men
- 2 Cor. 4:2 = not in craftiness
- Eph. 4:17 = not in the vanity of the mind

**2 Cor. 5:7** = *for we walk by faith, not by sight.*

**NOTE: How NOT to Walk...**

- 1 Cor. 3:3 = not after the manner of men
- 2 Cor. 4:2 = not in craftiness
- Eph. 4:17 = not in the vanity of the mind

**Romans 8:4** = *He condemned sin in the flesh, **4**in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk NOT according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.*

**2 Thessalonians 3:6** = *Now we command you, brothers, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, to keep away from every brother who walks irresponsibly and not according to the tradition received from us.*

**KEY:** contrast "words" vs "walk" = TEST!

("children of God vs children of the devil).

**v.7 = *but if we walk in the Light as He Himself is in the Light, we have **fellowship with one another**, and the **blood of Jesus His Son** cleanses us from all sin.***

**3 Pillars:**

**Truth; Love; Faithful Obedience**



## 4 Purposes:

**Purpose #1 = Promote KOINONIA & Joy**

\* **koinonia is the fruit vs. root of walking in the Light**

**To “walk in the Light” is to “be/walk in-Christ”**

**Quote:** *“Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him, rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving”*  
([Col. 2:6-7](#)).

Practically speaking, that which is principally required of us when we encounter aberrant/false teaching is to remain in the faith that was delivered fully and finally to God’s people. This can be a hard concept to grasp, for often we read passages like [Jude 3](#) and believe “*contending for the faith*” begins with learning all that we can about a false teaching or teacher in order to refute it/them. Certainly there is a place for this as a part of what it means to give an answer for the hope that is within us ([1 Peter 3:14-16](#)). But the first step is always to be solidly grounded in the truth we have received, for only then will we have a foundation to stand upon as we combat error...

Walking in Christ Jesus is nothing less than submission to His lordship. Our Savior calls us to obedience, not that we might earn our salvation but that we may display our gratitude for His grace. If we love Him — if we have love for God poured into our hearts ([Rom. 5:5](#)) — we will keep His commandments, which are not burdensome ([John 14:15](#); [1 John 5:3](#)). We will reflect the fact that we are in union with Christ, and we will grow in our knowledge and application of the gospel, as we bow to Him as Lord ([Col. 2:7](#)). Matthew Henry writes, “If we live in him, we shall be rooted in him; and the more firmly we are rooted in him, the more intimately we shall live in him.” - R.C. Sproul

*Find the Lost...* (in the dark)  
*Grow the Found...* (in/into the L/light)

**v.8 = If we say that we have no sin, we are deceiving ourselves and the truth is not in us.**

**Purpose #2:  
Prevent Saints from Sinning!**

God's Truth is not in those who fail God's test.

How are you to handle people who "look like" they love the T/truth... but LIVE like the Truth is not in them?

**Even sincerity is no substitute for Truth! - JDP**

**v.9 = If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

**Purpose #4  
Provide ASSURANCE to the Saints**

The sweet gift of grace & the very essence  
of the Gospel of Jesus, the Christ

If we Confess our sins to Christ...  
Christ our Savior Cleanses us.

**Note:** This is a conditional promise...  
That said... praise God because "all" means ALL!

**Confession = REPENTENCE!**

Walk out of darkness...  
Walk IN (and stay in) the Light!

*"to forgive us our sins...  
and cleanse us from ALL unrighteousness" =*  
**GOSPEL Assurance!**

- "All the SAINTS... have been cleansed of ALL their SINS... Amen!" - JDP

**v.10 = *If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar and His word is not in us.***

**Thus...** God's Word says:

**Those who are deceived or who intentionally deceive others are living lies...**

Worse yet, in so doing, they make God out to be a liar.

**Purpose #3**  
**Protect the true Church against the false teachers!**

# ***Somebody's LYING!***

It comes down to the biblical definitions & application of:

**Light**            Christ's divine...; Christian DNA

**Darkness**        ANY "patterns" of walking in SIN

**Walk**             2 Timothy... finish your race!

**Koinonia**        Supernatural unity! (God glue)

CLOSE:            **SHOW & TELL**

*Coventry Cathedral* Nov. 15, 1940



**Lets' Pray!**