

I JOHN 1:5-2:2
LUKE 24:36-49

WALKING IN THE LIGHT

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Walking in the Light - April 2024

1 John 1:5-2:2

This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all. If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth.

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 cleanses us from all sin. If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us. My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. He is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.

Every person must choose to follow Jesus or not to follow Jesus. To choose “nothing” is to choose to follow satan– the way of darkness and death. This morning scripture contrasts fellowship with God (walking in the light) with walking in darkness. It is impossible to dwell in both worlds.

This understanding of there being two paths– one that leads to salvation and the other that leads to damnation– has its roots in early Judaism. The choice between these two paths is made clear in Deuteronomy 30:19. Jesus continues this imagery, describing the way to destruction as being broad and popular. The path toward life is narrow and

few find it (Mt. 7:13-14). Early Christians used the image of two paths as a central to their baptismal preparations– they wanted to ensure that Christians “walked the walk” of a believer.

While 1 John makes it clear that no one can ever be totally without sin, we must strive to walk ever closer to God, which will require deeper renunciation of sin.

Questions:

1. Describe your current spiritual walk with God. Do you feel close to God, far from God, as though your spiritual life has plateaued? Why do you feel you are where you are?
2. What does “walking in the light” mean to you? What sins might God be calling you to surrender so that you can walk even closer to him?
3. Why is our culture so afraid to talk about sin?

