

INTRODUCTION.

- A. Scripture text: **1John 1:1-7**.
- B. Every Xian should cherish and greatly appreciate 1Jn. 1:6-7.
- C. But this passage has its consequences too.
- D. Tonight's lesson deals with how to walk in the light and not in darkness.

I. FOUR KINDS OF DARKNESS.

- A. In my reading I observe four different kinds of darkness:
 - 1. *Physical*-- without light or possibly being blind.
 - 2. *Intellectual*-- not stupid (an inability to learn) but ignorant of necessary things.
 - 3. *Moral*-- not able to distinguish between right and wrong, no code of ethics.
 - 4. *Spiritual*-- not caring for the soul or spirit. Living only in a temporal world.
- B. The darkness of 1Jn. 1:1-7 is probably *spiritual* due to the phrase "practice not the truth."

II. WALKING: TOO FAST, TOO SLOW, OR THE WRONG WAY.

- A. What does it mean "to walk?" In most cases, this term means lifestyle.
- B. *Walking* can mean:
 - 1. The newness of life after baptism (Rom. 6:4).
Therefore we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, in order that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life.
 - 2. Doing things because of one's trust in God (2Cor. 5:7).
...for we walk by faith, not by sight--
 - 3. To live worthy of wearing the name of X (Eph. 4:1).
'I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, entreat you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling with which you have been called,...
 - 4. To live as one approved of X (Rev. 3:4).
'But you have a few people in Sardis who have not soiled their garments; and they will walk with Me in white; for they are worthy.'
- C. Some are *walking* the wrong way:
 - 1. Jealousy, strife, and carnality is not the way to walk (1Cor. 3:3).
for you are still fleshly. For since there is jealousy and strife among you, are you not fleshly, and are you not walking like mere men?
 - 2. Craftiness, scheming, and adulterating the word of God (2Cor. 4:2).
but we have renounced the things hidden because of shame, not walking in craftiness or adulterating the word of God, but by the manifestation of truth commending ourselves to every man's conscience in the sight of God.
 - 3. Not walking as Jesus walked (1Jn. 2:6).
the one who says he abides in Him ought himself to walk in the same manner as He walked.
 - 4. In darkness [spiritual depravity] (1Jn. 1:6).
If we say that we have fellowship with Him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth;
- D. Some are *walking* too slowly:
 - 1. Their faith is not being accompanied by works (Jas. 2:18,19).
But someone may well say, "You have faith, and I have works; show me your faith without the works, and I will show you my faith by my works." 19 You believe that God is one. You do well; the demons also believe, and shudder.
 - 2. Their love for X had gone cold (Rev. 2:4).
'But I have this against you, that you have left your first love.'

3. They had tolerated false doctrine (Rev. 2:14).
‘But I have a few things against you, because you have there some who hold the teaching of Balaam, who kept teaching Balak to put a stumbling block before the sons of Israel, to eat things sacrificed to idols, and to commit acts of immorality.’
 4. They were loving material things more than X (Rev. 3:17).
‘Because you say, “I am rich, and have become wealthy, and have need of nothing,” and you do not know that you are wretched and miserable and poor and blind and naked,’
- E. Some are *walking* too fast:
1. Some were exceeding that which has been written (1Cor. 4:6).
Now these things, brethren, I have figuratively applied to myself and Apollos for your sakes, that in us you might learn not to exceed what is written, in order that no one of you might become arrogant in behalf of one against the other.
 2. Some were going beyond the doctrine of X (2Jn. 9).
Anyone who goes too far and does not abide in the teaching of Christ, does not have God; the one who abides in the teaching, he has both the Father and the Son.
 3. Mixing the teachings and philosophies of the world with X (Col. 2:6-8).
As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him, **7** having been firmly rooted and now being built up in Him and established in your faith, just as you were instructed, and overflowing with gratitude. **8** See to it that no one takes you captive through philosophy and empty deception, according to the tradition of men, according to the elementary principles of the world, rather than according to Christ.

III. ADVANTAGES OF WALKING IN THE LIGHT.

- A. John gives three good reasons to strive to please God by walking in the light.
- B. Walking in the light means:
 1. Practicing the truth (Jn 8:32; Gal. 5:7; 3Jn. 4).
(**Jn 8:32**) “and you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.”
(**Gal 5:7**) You were running well; who hindered you from obeying the truth?
(**3Jn v4**) I was very glad to find some of your children walking in truth, just as we have received commandment to do from the Father.
 2. Fellowship one with another (Heb. 12:1-2; 1Jn. 1:3).
(**Heb 12:1-2**) Therefore, since we have so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us also lay aside every encumbrance, and the sin which so easily entangles us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, **2** fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.
(**1Jn 1:3**) ...what we have seen and heard we proclaim to you also, that you also may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father, and with His Son Jesus Christ.
 3. The continual forgiveness of our sins (Eph. 1:7; Col. 1:14).
(**Eph 1:7**) In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace,...
(**Col 1:14**) in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.
- C. All sins are forgiven whether or not we consciously know we have committed them.
- D. This passage shows how to be faithful unto death, to receive the crown of life (Rev. 2:10).

CONCLUSION AND INVITATION.

- A. John writes these things to the brethren. First John 1:6-7 is not a “plan of salvation” for non-Xians.
- B. But what a wonderful promise it is to the child of God. One can have great confidence in their salvation (1Jn. 5:13).
These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, in order that you may know that you have eternal life.
- C. Plan of salvation for non-Xians, erring-Xians.