

Study of 1 John

(1Jn 1:5-10)



Truth Matters Church, Inc.

1

Scripture Reading



1 John 1:5-10

⁵ This is the message we have heard from Him and announce to you, that God is Light, and in Him there is no darkness at all. ⁶ If we say that we have fellowship with Him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth; 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. ⁸ If we say that we have no sin, we are deceiving ourselves and the truth is not in us. ⁹ If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. ¹⁰ If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar and His word is not in us.

2

Key themes of our passage



John reaffirms the gospel message

- ☞ Gospel message affirms (**more on this**)
 - ☞ God's holiness and righteousness
 - ☞ "God is Light, and in Him is no darkness at all" (v. 5) (**more on this**)
 - ☞ Evidence of new birth, sanctification
 - ☞ If we claim Christianity, but live in sin, we deceive ourselves (v. 6)
 - ☞ We are sinners (v. 9)
 - ☞ If we confess (agree) that we are sinners, then God is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness

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Exposit: 1Jn 1:5



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

- ☞ "This is the message" = "This is the gospel message"
- ☞ Part of the gospel message is "God is Light"
- ☞ I'd like to look at two things:
 - ☞ What is the gospel message?
 - ☞ What does it mean when John says that "God is Light"?

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What is the Gospel message



1 Corinthians 15:1-11

¹ Now I make known to you, brethren, the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received, in which also you stand, ² by which also you are saved, if you hold fast the word which I preached to you, unless you believed in vain.

³ For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, ⁴ and that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, ⁵ and that He appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. ⁶ After that He appeared to more than five hundred brethren at one time, most of whom remain until now, but some have fallen asleep; ⁷ then He appeared to James, then to all the apostles; ⁸ and last of all, as to one untimely born, He appeared to me also. ⁹ For I am the least of the apostles, and not fit to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. ¹⁰ But by the grace of God I am what I am, and His grace toward me did not prove vain; but I labored even more than all of them, yet not I, but the grace of God with me. ¹¹ Whether then it was I or they, so we preach and so you believed.

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What is the Gospel message



☞ Gospel message features

- ☞ Is preached (proclaimed)
- ☞ Is heard and received (believed)
- ☞ Is conditional (must hold fast, less believed in vain)
- ☞ Was delivered by God's holy apostles and associates

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What is the Gospel message



- ☞ Gospel message essential truths
 - ☞ Jesus died in place of sinners
 - ☞ Fulfilling OT/NT Scriptures
 - ☞ Jesus physically and literally died/buried/rose on 3rd day
 - ☞ Fulfilling OT/NT Scriptures
 - ☞ Jesus in His resurrected and glorified body appeared to:
 - ☞ Peter and the rest of the 12 disciples (less Judas)
 - ☞ More than 500 believers
 - ☞ James (His brother) then rest of the apostles
 - ☞ Paul on road to Damascus (post ascension)

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The Gospel is Conditional



- ☞ We must persevere

1Cor15:1-2

¹ Now I make known to you, brethren, the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received, in which also you stand, ² by which also you are saved, **if you hold fast** the word which I preached to you, unless you believed in vain.

Rm 11:22

22 Behold then the kindness and severity of God; to those who fell, severity, but to you, God's kindness, **if you continue** in His kindness; otherwise you also will be cut off.

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The Gospel is Conditional



John 15:2-3

2 Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit, He takes away; and every branch that bears fruit, He prunes it so that it may bear more fruit.

Hebrews 3:5-6

5 Now Moses was faithful in all His house as a servant, for a testimony of those things which were to be spoken later; 6 but Christ was faithful as a Son over His house— whose house we are, **if we hold fast** our confidence and the boast of our hope firm until the end.

9

The Gospel is Conditional



Hebrews 3:14

14 For we have become partakers of Christ, if we hold fast the beginning of our assurance firm until the end

Hebrews 4:14

14 Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, **let us hold fast** our confession.

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The Gospel is Conditional



1Cor 6:1

1 And working together with Him, we also urge you **not to receive the grace of God in vain**

Galatians 2:1-2

1 Then after an interval of fourteen years I went up again to Jerusalem with Barnabas, taking Titus along also. 2 It was because of a revelation that I went up; and I submitted to them the gospel which I preach among the Gentiles, but I did so in private to those who were of reputation, **for fear that I might be running, or had run, in vain.**

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The Gospel is Conditional



⌘ IMPLIED (WARNING):

- ⌘ You can receive the grace of God in vain (non saving faith)
- ⌘ “Let go and let God” change that to “Hold fast and trust God”

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Perseverance of the Saints



☞ TRUTH: True born again believers will persevere
(Perseverance of the Saints)

Philippians 1:6

6 For I am confident of this very thing, **that He who began a good work in you will perfect (accomplish) it** until the day of Christ Jesus.

Corinthians 1:7-8

8 **[Jesus] will also confirm (establish) you to the end**, blameless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

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Perseverance of the Saints



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Perseverance of the Saints



Romans 8:28-30

28 And we know that **God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.** 29 For those whom He foreknew, He also predestined to become conformed to the image of His Son, so that He would be the firstborn among many brethren; 30 **and these whom He predestined, He also called; and these whom He called, He also justified; and these whom He justified, He also glorified.**

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“God is Light”



- ☞ Up to this point, John uses 2 phrases to describe God:
 - ☞ “Word of Life” (1Jn 1:1)
 - ☞ Source of life, eternal life (Jn 6)
 - ☞ “God **is** Light” (1Jn 1:5)
 - ☞ Light is used to describe one of God’s attributes
 - ☞ Light is contrasted with darkness
 - ☞ Do not confuse “let there **be** light” to “God **is** Light”
 - ☞ In Gen 1:3, light was created (before sun/moon)
 - ☞ In 1Jn 1:5, Light describes God

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“Let there be light”



Genesis 1:1-5 (NASB Strong's)

1 In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. 2 The earth was formless and void, and darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was moving over the surface of the waters. 3 Then God said, “**Let there be light**”; and there was light. 4 God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. 5 God called the light day, and the darkness He called night. And there was evening and there was morning, one day.

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“Let there be light”



Job 26:5-14 (NASB Strong's)

The Greatness of God

5 “The departed spirits tremble
Under the waters and their inhabitants.
6 “Naked is Sheol before Him,
And Abaddon has no covering.
7 “He stretches out the north over empty space
And hangs the earth on nothing.
8 “He wraps up the waters in His clouds,
And the cloud does not burst under them.
9 “He obscures the face of the full moon
And spreads His cloud over it.
10 “He has inscribed a circle on the surface of the waters
At the boundary of light and darkness.

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“Let there be light”



- ☞ If you take Scripture with Scripture (Gen 1:3 & Job 26:10)
 - ☞ In the creation account God was establishing making boundaries of morning/light vs. evening/darkness
 - ☞ Then later God created the Sun to govern the day and the Moon to govern the night (Gen 1:16)

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“God is Light”



Micah 7:7-9

God Is the Source of Salvation and Light

7 But as for me, I will watch expectantly for the Lord;

I will wait for the God of my salvation.

My God will hear me.

8 Do not rejoice over me, O my enemy.

Though I fall I will rise;

Though I dwell in darkness, **the Lord is a light** for me.

9 I will bear the indignation of the Lord

Because I have sinned against Him,

Until He pleads my case and executes justice for me.

He will bring me out to the light,

And I will see His righteousness.

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“God is Light”



John 8:12

Jesus Is the Light of the World

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.**”

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“God is Light”



☞ If you take Scripture with Scripture (Mic 7:9, 1Jn 1:5, & Jn 8:12)

- ☞ When John says “God is Light,” God is the source of righteousness, God is righteousness, righteousness comes with eternal life
- ☞ Seeing God’s righteousness is Light, is Life
- ☞ In God there is righteousness/light/good/life
- ☞ In God there is no unrighteousness/darkness/evil/sin/death
- ☞ Therefore, anything against God’s righteousness is unrighteousness/darkness/evil/sin/ → condemnation

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Exposit: 1Jn 1:6



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

- ☞ Greek for 'fellowship' is "koinōnia" which means participating, sharing with
- ☞ Darkness is synonymous with unrighteousness

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Catarroja AMP: 1Jn 1:6



⁶ If we say that we [participate and share life] with Him and yet walk in [unrighteousness], we lie and do not practice the truth;

- ☞ You can't be a child of God and live like a child of the devil
- ☞ Even if you profess to be a Christian, or said a prayer, or believe certain facts about Jesus
- ☞ "we lie and do not practice the truth"
- ☞ Paul warns us of not allowing ourselves to be deceived:

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Exposit: 1Jn 1:6



1 Corinthians 6:9-11 (NASB Strong's)

9 Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived; neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor homosexuals, 10 nor thieves, nor the covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers, will inherit the kingdom of God. 11 Such were some of you; but you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and in the Spirit of our God.

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Exposit: 1Jn 1:7



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.

- ✧ 'walk' is synonymous with conducting our self
- ✧ 'Light' is synonymous with righteousness

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Catarroja AMP: 1Jn 1:7



⁷ but if we [conduct ourselves] in [righteousness] as [Jesus] Himself [conducted Himself in Righteousness], we have [true] fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin.

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Exposit: 1Jn 1:8



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

☞ Remember John is combating false teaching, including the toleration of sin or rejection of its reality

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Forms of False Teaching



- ❧ Churches were inundated with several forms of false teaching
 - ❧ Nicolaitanes
 - ❧ Balaam
 - ❧ Jezebel
 - ❧ Judaism
 - ❧ Gnosticism

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Forms of False Teaching



- ❧ Nicolaitanes / Balaam / Jezebel
 - ❧ Sexual immorality
 - ❧ Ate food sacrificed to idols

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Forms of False Teaching



☞ Judaism

- ☞ Must be circumcised (sign of circumcision)
- ☞ Observance “works” of the Law
 - ☞ Temple worship
 - ☞ Sacrificial system
 - ☞ Festivals, Feasts
- ☞ Elevated Talmud (tradition to same level as Scripture)
- ☞ Their man-made religion only way to heaven

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Forms of False Teaching



☞ Gnosticism

- ☞ Attacked the Person and work of Jesus
 - ☞ Since physical matter is evil, Jesus’s physical body only “seemed” to be real
 - ☞ In other words, Jesus was not really a human being
 - ☞ 1 John 1:1 What was from the beginning, what **we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked at and touched with our hands**, concerning the Word of Life
 - ☞ Christ’s “spirit” came down from heaven during His baptism, but departed before His crucifixion
 - ☞ Undermined Jesus’s atonement for sin

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Forms of False Teaching



☞ Gnosticism

- ☞ Thus, gnostics refused to view Jesus of Nazareth as the Christ
- ☞ Rejected the Deity and Humanity of the earthly Jesus
 - ☞ 1 John 2:2 and He Himself is the propitiation for our sins; and not for ours only, but also for those of the whole world.
 - ☞ 1 John 4:10 In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins.

☞ Minimized seriousness of sin, rejected its reality

- ☞ "I'm a good person"
- ☞ "God knows my heart"
- ☞ 1 John 1:6-10 | 6 If we say that we have fellowship with Him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth; 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. 8 **If we say that we have no sin, we are deceiving ourselves and the truth is not in us.** 9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. 10 If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar and His word is not in us.

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Exposit: 1Jn 1:9



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

- ☞ Greek for 'confess' is 'admit' or 'agree'
- ☞ In context this confession is tied to:
 - ☞ Jesus is the Word of life, source of life, eternal life
 - ☞ Jesus is Righteous, the source of righteousness
 - ☞ Apart from Jesus I'm unrighteous, in darkness, dead man walking, detached from eternal life, evil

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Exposit: 1Jn 1:9



TRUTH:

- ☞ If we confess/admit/agree to such things, then the following promise applies to us:
 - ☞ “He [Jesus] is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness”
- ☞ If you think your 99.9% unrighteous and .01% righteous, you’re deceived and will stand in judgment

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Exposit: 1Jn 1:10



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

- ☞ “If we say” an indication that some are saying this
- ☞ “we have not sinned” whether its toleration of sin or refuse to acknowledge it’s reality
- ☞ Then we stand in the place of God, usurp God, call God into contempt, and accuse God of lying and instead make ourselves to be holy and He unholy
- ☞ If this is the case, you’re not saved

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