

OAK RIDGE MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH
Ricky D. Turner, Senior Pastor

WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY
January - 2022

1 John – Chapter 1: 1 - 9

I. The Way of Life

First John was written to dispel doubts about Jesus. False teachers had entered the church, denying the Incarnation of Christ. John steps up to the bench and makes a defense. John knew Him, walked with Him and lived with Him. Yes, John saw Christ heal, he heard His words. John had been to the empty tomb and knew . . . Jesus is not one of many options, He is the only option or nothing at all.

Let me say to us, there are times to be tolerant and there are times to take a stand for the truth. In this letter, John takes a stand.

A. From the Beginning, vs. 1 – 4

As the words begin here, we are reminded of the prologue to the Gospel of John and the opening words of Genesis 1, “In the beginning God created . . . and God said. . .” What is it John intends us to think and feel as we hear these opening words?

- Jesus Christ is the very source of and origin of everything
- He is the *Word of life*
- The Word of life can be known and experienced by people
- Fellowship
- Joy

Life derives from God, which is why John is able to use the term “life:”

B. God is Light, vs. 5

“God is light and in Him is no darkness at all.” What a sentence! It is bold and electrifying. Why?

- God is light
- Scriptures:
 - Isaiah 9: 2
 - Psalm 119:105
 - Psalm 27:1

What does this mean for us today? John’s affirmation is the promise that God’s self-disclosure is on the side of truth, and therefore when Jesus Christ is Lord of our life, then we will see the road more clearly. He is the Light who makes the roadway upon which we live and move and have our being come into focus. . . .

C. To Walk in the Light, vv. 6 – 10

The language of the roadway and the language of fellowship are now drawn together by John in a few simple and direct sentences.

What is it we that we discover about God here? And what do we discover about ourselves? Well, within these four verses we make these discoveries:

1. God is on the side of truth and openness
2. John shares a surprise with his readers

The way of light is dangerous, and its disclosure is threatening to every human being because the light shows up our own inadequacies and, what is worse, our own wickedness.

John shows us a great discovery, the Lord who is the light for the roadway is also our companion (ooh-we. . .) on the roadway!

John tells us that if we walk in the light, *“The blood of Jesus Christ his Son, cleanses us from all sin.”* What does that mean for them then, and you and me now?

John is insistent with his readers on one very important point, to walk in the light does not mean that a human being is sinless and flawless; rather to walk in the light means that a human as a sinner is, in the light, fully aware that he or she is a sinner.

But the good news is, just such a sinner is not a lost cause (Oh glory!). Why? 1 John 1:9, *If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness!!!!!!*

Finally, John teaches here, that fellowship of those on the roadway together with Jesus Christ and the openness with God enables forgiveness. You see, fellowship is not founded upon deception and never has been.