

LIVING IN THE LIGHT, NOT IN DARKNESS

LESSON AIM: Learn how to have eternal life and be in fellowship with God and one another.

Suggestion: Have the students read the Scriptures and answer the questions in the student lesson; then ask the following questions for class discussion.

How did the apostles know that the Son of God had become a real man? 1:1-2

They heard what He said, saw what He did, looked at (examined) Him carefully and handled him with their own hands to see if he were a real man. They were absolutely certain that He, the Son of God, was the Word of life with the Father from the beginning and had manifested Himself to them. He had come to earth with eternal life for all who believed Him.

Why was it important that the Son of God become a man?

In order to give believers eternal life, He had to die in their place to pay the penalty for their sins and then He had to rise from the dead to give them life. Since God cannot die, He had to become a man.

Who can bring us into fellowship with the Father and His Son? 1:3-4

After the Apostles saw and heard Jesus, they were convinced that He is the Word of life that gives eternal life to all believers. This is the basis for fellowship with each other and fellowship with the Father and His Son. This fellowship gives believers full joy.

What is needed to have fellowship with the Father and with other believers? 1:5-7

God is light and no darkness (sin) is in Him. We have fellowship with Him, if we live in the light, but we do not have fellowship with Him, if we live in darkness (sin). The blood of Jesus Christ, His Son, cleanses us from all sin, so we can live in the light. When we live in the light we also have fellowship with other believers that live in the light.

Who walks in darkness and who walks in His light? 1:8-10

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves and walk in darkness. Atheists deceive themselves and walk in darkness, because they say they have no sin. Since they do not believe in God, His commandments are not real to them. They believe that they evolved from animals, which have no sin.

If we confess our sin, God is faithful to His promise and just in His decision to forgive us of our sin and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. We are saved and able to walk in His light. We also claim this promise when we sin as a believer, but the context indicates that forgiveness is for our salvation. Forgiveness for salvation is found in other Scriptures – Acts 5:31; 13:38; 26:18; Eph 1:7; Col 1:14.

If we say that we have not sinned, we make God a liar and walk in darkness. Little children, who are not old enough to know God's laws, may say that they have not sinned. This also applies to people born with unsound minds. But all others, even though they do not have God's laws, they do have a conscience that tells them that they have sinned, so they are without excuse. However, some people sear their conscience disregarding it and listen to false doctrine until they no longer believe they have sinned (1 Tim 4:2). This is the danger of false doctrine.