

1 JOHN 1:5-2:2 (NASB)

<sup>5</sup>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. <sup>6</sup>If we say that we have fellowship with Him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth; <sup>7</sup>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. <sup>8</sup>If we say that we have no sin, we are deceiving ourselves and the truth is not in us. <sup>9</sup>If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. <sup>10</sup>If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar and His word is not in us.

<sup>2:1</sup> My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; <sup>2</sup>and He Himself is the propitiation for our sins; and not for ours only, but also for *those of the whole world*.

**REVIEW**

We recall that John was a firsthand witness and *knows* the message and the message-giver. Having received the Truth, he now reminds believers that sin is *real* – and *must* be dealt with by God. Jesus himself brings light and brings us into the light. In doing so, he exposes our sin (our intentional and unintentional failures) so that we find ourselves forever-cleansed and healed in his presence.

**STUDY IT**

- What is the “message” John hopes to convey? (v.5)
- **Read John 3:19-21** (below). Notice how John’s weaves the parallel of these themes from his letter *and* his gospel. How is God *light*? Where does darkness come from? How is darkness antithetical to God?
- What is the promise made to those who walk in the light? (v.7)
- Why must a believer of Jesus admit his/her sin? What happens if we deny this reality? (vs.8+10)

- What happens when we confess our sins? (v.9)
- How do we make God a liar by denying the reality of sin?
- How does Jesus turn away God’s anger toward our sin as our Advocate? (vs.2:1-2)

**APPLY IT**

- Do you agree that sin must be dealt with in our world? Why?
- Do you agree that sin must be dealt with in your life? Why?
- How do you communicate with God regarding your sin?
- How does God help you experience the Light – as a *result of* confessing?

**WORD LIST**

*Confession* – Admission of guilt and agreement with God’s desire to purify his people and/or help us experience his ongoing healing.

*Light* is truth, love, freedom. Whoever loves God, loves the light, and seeks a relationship that permits and even *seeks* the exposure to sin.

*Darkness* is sin, self-focused, enslaving. In the darkness, we are resistant to confession and the light’s healing work.

**JOHN 3:19-21: (Jesus speaking)** <sup>19</sup>This is the verdict: Light has come into the world, but people loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil. <sup>20</sup>Everyone who does evil hates the light, and will not come into the light for fear that their deeds will be exposed. <sup>21</sup>But whoever lives by the truth comes into the light, so that it may be seen plainly that what they have done has been done in the sight of God.

*Propitiation* is the result of God’s initiative to remove the distance caused by sin and restore us to fellowship with Him. More literally, this refers to God’s anger (wrath) turning away from us – because of Jesus’ sacrifice.