

— 1 John —
Lesson #4 Chapter 1:5-10

Before you begin this lesson, prepare your heart by asking the Lord for help in understanding His Word and for wisdom in applying it. May you be blessed as you dig into this passage!

1. By way of review, what message was proclaimed in verses 1-3? One of the reasons for that preached message is given in verse 3. What is it?
2. What is it about the message from verses 1-3 that will bring joy to John? See verse 4.
3. In verse 5 John declares, “This is the message we have from Him and announce to you.” Define *announce* [Strong’s #312 (ESV *proclaim*; NKJV, NIV *declare*)]. See also John 4:25; Acts 20:20, 27; 1 Peter 1:12 to get a better sense of the word.
4. Where does the message originate according to verse 5?
5. John began his letter proclaiming things we need to know. Now what announcement does John want us to know and understand from verse 5?
6. What observations can you make about God, His character, and His ways from verse 5?

- a. Next, look up the following verses to discover what God wants us to understand about Himself as revealed in verse 5. See Psalm 104:1-2; Zephaniah 3:5; 1 Timothy 6:16; James 1:17; Revelation 21:22-24.
7. John has already introduced the idea that salvation ushers us into *fellowship with God* in verses 1-4. From there, John revealed more information about God in verse 5. What implications do those truths about God from verse 5 have upon our lives if we want to have fellowship with God? See Acts 26:18; Romans 13:12-14; Ephesians 5:7-14; 1 Peter 2:9-11.
8. What contrasts are presented in verse 6?
9. John is making a crucial point about the Christian life in verse 6. Explain what *fellowship with God, practice, light, and darkness* have to do with each other as revealed in verses 5-6.
- “All walking in darkness is a not doing of the truth.” ~Marvin Vincent¹
10. Describe what it means to “walk in the darkness.” See also Romans 2:8; 2 Timothy 3:8; James 5:19.

¹ Marvin Richardson Vincent, *Word Studies in the New Testament*, vol. 2 (New York: Charles Scribner’s Sons, 1887), 315.

11. Define *practice* [Strong's #4160 (NIV *live the truth*)] from verse 6. Also see John 3:21, the only other place John uses this phrase, *practice the truth*.

 12. In contrast to the scenario painted in verse 6, what clear progression will show in our lives according to verse 7?

 13. John continues to make his point about fellowship. What do you learn about where fellowship originates from verses 1-7? If you desire to deepen your relationships among believers, what do you need to understand about fellowship according to verses 1-7?

 14. John ends verse 7 with these words, "and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin." What does our being made righteous through the sacrifice of Jesus have to do with walking in the light and having fellowship with one another according to verses 5-7?
- "O the unspeakable effectiveness of Christ's sacrifice; it extends to all sins (1 John 1:7): past, present, without exception, and all sins to come!" ~John Flavel²
- "His blood has a double consideration: not only atonement and reconciliation, but also purging and sanctification. He offered Himself not just to make atonement, but also to sanctify us by the sprinkling of His blood." ~John Owen³
15. Lest his comments in verses 5-7 be misunderstood and misapplied, John provides more truth in verse 8 to counteract any wrong thinking about the Christian life. What do you learn in verse 8?

² John Flavel, editor, Richard Rushing, *Voices from the Past, Volume 1* (Edinburgh: The Banner of Truth Trust, 2009), page 21.

³ John Owen, editor Richard Rushing, *Voices from the Past, Volume 1* (Edinburgh: The Banner of Truth Trust, 2009), page 161.

- a. What kinds of situations tempt us to deny that we have sinned? See also Ephesians 4:20-25; Colossians 3:8-10.
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16. What point is John making between *what we say* and the way *we walk* that we must learn to apply in our lives from verses 5-8?

 17. Once we recognize our sin and see how it has broken our previous fellowship with our dear Father, what is the solution according to verse 9?

 18. What parts of verse 9 do you find take the most faith to believe and trust in when you sin?
 - a. What do the following Scriptures teach us about confessing and forsaking sin? See Psalm 32:5; 38:17-18; 66:16-20; Proverbs 28:13-14; Luke 18:13-14.

 19. What do we learn about God's character in verse 9?
 - a. When we understand those truths about God, how can it give us courage to go to Him and confess our sin? See also Hebrews 4:14-16; 10:19-23; 11:6.

“The sinner deserves to die for his sins. Since God is a just and righteous God, sin cannot absolutely escape unpunished. God must deny Himself to be unjust, but this He can never do. . . .As God is just, He is also true, and must make good the threatenings that have gone out of His mouth: ‘In the day you eat of it you shall surely die (Genesis 2:17). God cannot break His word. O sirs, there is no standing before a God that is a consuming fire, a just judge, and a holy God, unless we have one that is mighty to undertake for us and satisfy divine justice; one mighty to pacify divine wrath, bear divine threatenings, and mighty to forgive sin! The Father is just in forgiving our sins in Christ (1 John 1:9).” ~Thomas Brooks⁴

20. If we are unwilling to repent of our sin and confess it to God, what is really going on? See verse 10.

21. What does John mean when he says at the end of verse 10, “His Word is not in us”? See also 1 John 1:8; 2:4; John 5:37-38; 8:37; 17:17; 2 John 1:1-2.

22. Think about how 1 John 1:5-10 applies to your life today.
 - a. *Today*, if, or better, when you sin, what is God’s assessment of what is going on in your heart and life according to these verses?

 - b. *Today*, if you sin, what do you need to do according to verses 5-10?

 - c. *Today*, if you do not put 1 John 1:9 into practice, what will be the result?

⁴ Thomas Brooks, editor Richard Rushing, *Voices from the Past, Volume 2* (Edinburgh: The Banner of Truth Trust, 2016), page 96.

- d. After you confess and forsake your sin, *when* do you experience the results of applying 1 John 1:9? Why do you sometimes delay in applying 1 John 1:9?
- e. What truths from verses 5-10 have impacted you the most this week? What are some ways you want to try to implement what you've learned?

*"Father, I have sinned."
—Luke 15:18*

It is quite certain that those whom Christ has washed in his precious blood need not make a confession of sin, as culprits or criminals, before God the Judge, for Christ has for ever taken away all their sins in a legal sense, so that they no longer stand where they can be condemned, but are once for all accepted in the Beloved; but having become children, and offending as children, ought they not every day to go before their heavenly Father and confess their sin, and acknowledge their iniquity in that character?

Nature teaches that it is the duty of erring children to make a confession to their earthly father, and the grace of God in the heart teaches us that we, as Christians, owe the same duty to our heavenly Father. We daily offend, and ought not to rest without daily pardon. For, supposing that my trespasses against my Father are not at once taken to him to be washed away by the cleansing power of the Lord Jesus, what will be the consequence? If I have not sought forgiveness and been washed from these offences against my Father, I shall feel at a distance from him; I shall doubt his love to me; I shall tremble at him; I shall be afraid to pray to him: I shall grow like the prodigal, who, although still a child, was yet far off from his father.

But if, with a child's sorrow at offending so gracious and loving a Parent, I go to him and tell him all, and rest not till I realize that I am forgiven, then I shall feel a holy love to my Father, and shall go through my Christian career, not only as saved, but as one enjoying present peace in God through Jesus Christ my Lord. There is a wide distinction between confessing sin *as a culprit*, and confessing sin *as a child*. The Father's bosom is the place for penitent confessions. We have been cleansed once for all, but our feet still need to be washed from the defilement of our daily walk as children of God. ~Charles Spurgeon⁵

⁵ C. H. Spurgeon, *Morning and Evening: Daily Readings* (London: Passmore & Alabaster, 1896). February 18, Evening.