



WHICH WAY?

1 JOHN 1:5-2:2

Background

Date: 80's Author/Reader: Apostle John/Circular Letter

Occasion: Firm faith against seductive false teaching

Theme: Live in the Light. Christ is the Light.

Tone: A father's heart to clarify, assure, gird, and guide

This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all. If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us. My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. He is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world. (1Jo 1:5-2:2 ESV)

5神就是光，在他毫无黑暗。这是我们从主所听见，又报给你们的信息。6我们若说是与神相交，却仍在黑暗里行，就是说谎话，不行真理了。7我们若在光明中行，如同神在光明中，就彼此相交，他儿子耶稣的血也洗净我们一切的罪。8我们若说自己无罪，便是自欺，真理不在我们心里了。9我们若认自己的罪，神是信实的，是公义的，必要赦免我们的罪，洗净我们一切的不义。10我们若说自己没有犯过罪，便是以神为说谎的。他的道也不在我们心里了。11我小子们哪，我将这些话写给你们，是要叫你们不犯罪。若有人犯罪，在父那里我们有一位中保，就是那义者耶稣基督。12他为我们的罪作了挽回祭。不是单为我们的罪，也是为普天下人的罪。约翰一书 1:5 - 2:2 (CUV)

“For all the promises of God find their Yes in him. That is why it is through him that we utter our Amen to God for his glory.” (2Cor. 1:20 ESV)

The Way to “No”-Where...

The Way to “Yes”-Where...

“Gracious God, our sins are too heavy to carry, too real to hide, and too deep to undo. Forgive what our lips tremble to name, what our hearts can no longer bear, and what has become for us a consuming fire of judgment. Set us free from a past that we cannot change; open to us a future in which we can be changed; and grant us grace to grow more and more in your likeness and image, through Jesus Christ, the light of the world. Amen.” From the PCUSA Book of Common Worship

Going Deeper

(For individual or small groups to go deeper with the passage)

1. Read all of 1 John chapter 1. How are God, Jesus, and people described?
2. Do a word study on either “sin” (*hamartias*), “righteousness” (*dikaion*), or “propitiation” (*hilasmos*). How did your study help you understand this passage?
3. Describe a time you had to walk around in darkness. How does remembering that experience help you understand John’s point about our spiritual realities?
4. Truth/falsehood and deception/reality are key themes in this passage. Who is deceived? Who is faithful? Who is true? How does justice fit with truth?
5. Where is the hope and power for someone who is “walking in the light” when it comes to forgiveness and transformation? How do you find freedom and growth from sin in this passage?
6. Spiritual Exercise: This week make a point of practicing 1 John 1:9. Pay attention to two things: 1) Is there a sin from your past you feel a need to keep confessing? 2) Do you sense a need to find cleansing from sins done to you? If so, find a trusted Christian friend, an elder or pastor, and ask for spiritual guidance to find freedom.