

WALKING IN THE LIGHT

Text: 1 John 1:5-7

INTRO: According to Vine, the term "walk" as used in the writings of Paul & John signifies "the whole round of the activities of the individual life." The Christian is to walk in newness of life, walk after the spirit, walk in honesty, walk by faith, walk in good works, in love, in wisdom, in truth. He is to walk after the commandments of the Lord.

On the negative side, he is not to walk after the flesh, not after the manner of men, not in craftiness, not in the vanity of the mind, not disorderly.

In our text, John sums up all that pertains to the Christian's proper life-style in the phrase, "walk in the light." Anything a Christian should seek to avoid is summed up in the phrase "walk in darkness."

I. JOHN WAS WRITING TO CHRISTIANS--TO MEN & WOMEN WHO HAD ALREADY BEEN CLEANSED BY THE BLOOD OF CHRIST IN THEIR INITIAL OBEDIENCE TO THE GOSPEL. Col. 1:13.

A. There is a danger that those once cleansed will return to walk again in darkness. If they do, they cannot have fellowship with God. 2 Pet 2:22

B. To claim to be in fellowship with God while living in willful sin is to be false, both in words & in deeds.

II. WALKING IN THE LIGHT--ITS CONDITIONS.

A. Activity. Walking in the light. Actively obedient. Some are "sound" in their beliefs, but "sound asleep" as regarding putting those beliefs into practice.

- B. Continuity. Keep walking. Keep obeying. Keep progressing toward God. Toward His holiness, His love, etc.
- C. Facing reality, vs. 8, 10. Even as we seek to manifest His love, His holiness, His truth; reflect His light, we can & do & have & will come short. One writer compared our light to a flame, which itself casts a shadow in the light of the noon-day sun.
- D. Obviously, walking in the light is not sinless perfection. Even as we walk in the light we will need to make numerous corrections & adjustments along the way.
- E. Confess our sins & embrace His promise of continuing cleansing, on-going forgiveness, vs. 9.

III. WALKING IN THE LIGHT--ITS RESULT.

- A. Fellowship with God, vs. 7.
 - 1. Keeps an open door of communication, His ears are open to our prayers, 1 Peter 3:12.
 - 2. Co-operation in His cause, workers together with God, 2 Cor. 6:1.
 - 3. We share the common interest in the salvation of souls, etc.
- B. Continuing, on-going cleansing.
 - 1. The cleansing of our pre-conversion sin was done once for all. God forgave & forgot. Acts 2:38; 22:16; 1 Cor. 6:11; Heb 8:12.

2. We do not need to be baptized again or "born again" again-- but we do need to be cleansed from the sins we commit from day to day.

3. This cleansing is not automatic, but it is always available, & it is absolutely certain & completely adequate "if we confess our sins..." "all our sins."

IV. IN THE UPPER ROOM, JESUS GAVE A POWERFUL ILLUSTRATION OF THE PRINCIPLE INVOLVED IN THIS CONTINUING CLEANSING.

READ JOHN 13:5-11.

A. Peter had bathed & was clean, except for his feet which had picked up the dust of the Jerusalem road. He did not need another bath.

B. But he did need to be cleansed from the dust of the road, vs 8.

CONCLUSION: If you have never come to Jesus for remission of sins, you need to do what Peter taught in Acts 2:36-38; what Jesus commanded in Mark 16:16. If you have been initially washed, but have soiled your feet along life's dusty road, penitently confess your sin to God. He is faithful & just to forgive you & cleanse you with the precious blood of Jesus Christ.

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