

1 John
(Lesson 2)

Introduction:

1. As John began his letter (1:1-4), he declared that Jesus the Son of God came in the flesh.
 - a. Because Jesus came in the flesh, we can have fellowship with Him and the Father.
 - b. This is a special message -- John wrote it so our *"joy may be full."*
2. Some heretics known as "the Gnostics" taught some things about Jesus that are not true.
 - a. Some of them claimed that Jesus did not come in the flesh.
 - b. Others taught that Jesus came, but He was not divine.
3. They held these views because they believed that all flesh is evil.
4. According to this doctrine, if Jesus:
 - a. was divine, He did not actually come in the flesh [Why? -- Because all flesh is evil]
 - b. did come in the flesh, He was not divine [Why? -- Because all flesh is evil].
5. John confronted both errors (2:22; 4:3).
6. The Gnostics believed their doctrine allowed them to live as they pleased.
7. According to vs.5-10, Christians cannot follow these beliefs and have fellowship with God.
8. Fellowship with God involves walking in the light and confessing our sins.

Discussion:

- I. JOHN SHOWED IN VS.5-7 THAT WE MUST WALK IN THE LIGHT
 - A. In vs.5 John tells us 2 things about God.
 1. First, John said that *"God is light."*
 2. Second, John said that there *"is no darkness at all"* in God.
 3. After telling us these 2 things about God in vs.5, . . .
 - B. In vs.6-7, John wrote about how to have fellowship with God.
 1. Vs.6 deals with a way in which we cannot have fellowship with God.
 - a. We cannot *"walk in darkness"* and have fellowship with God.
 - b. If we claim to have fellowship with God while walking in darkness we are guilty of lying and not practicing the truth.
 - c. The Gnostics believed that a person could have fellowship with God while living a life of sin -- John showed that this will not work.
 2. John continued in vs.7 by showing how we can have fellowship with God.
 - a. We must *"walk in the light, as He is in the light."*
 - b. This is an important responsibility for Christians (Ephesians 5:8).
 - c. By walking in the light as God is in the light, we can have fellowship with Him.
 - d. We also receive a special blessing -- the blood of Christ cleanses us *"from all sin."*
 - C. To have fellowship with God, we must not walk in darkness, and we must walk in the light.
 - II. JOHN SHOWED IN VS.8-10 THAT WE MUST CONFESS OUR SINS
 - A. The Gnostics excused their sinful behavior on the basis of their belief that all flesh is evil.
 1. Suppose we claim not to have any sin [see vs.8].
 2. Suppose we claim that we have not sinned [see vs.10].
 3. These 2 approaches will not allow us to have fellowship with God because He *"is light, and in Him is no darkness at all."*
 4. Rather than excuse sinful behavior, . . .
 - B. John said in vs.9 that we must *"confess our sins."*
 1. God will forgive our sins and *"cleanse us from all unrighteousness."*
 2. This principle has been around for a long time (Proverbs 28:13).
 3. Sins known only to God must be confessed to Him.
 4. Sins that involve others must be confessed to them (James 5:16a).

Conclusion:

1. *"God is light, and in Him is no darkness at all."*
2. To have fellowship with God, we must *"walk in the light, as He is in the light"* and *"confess our sins."*