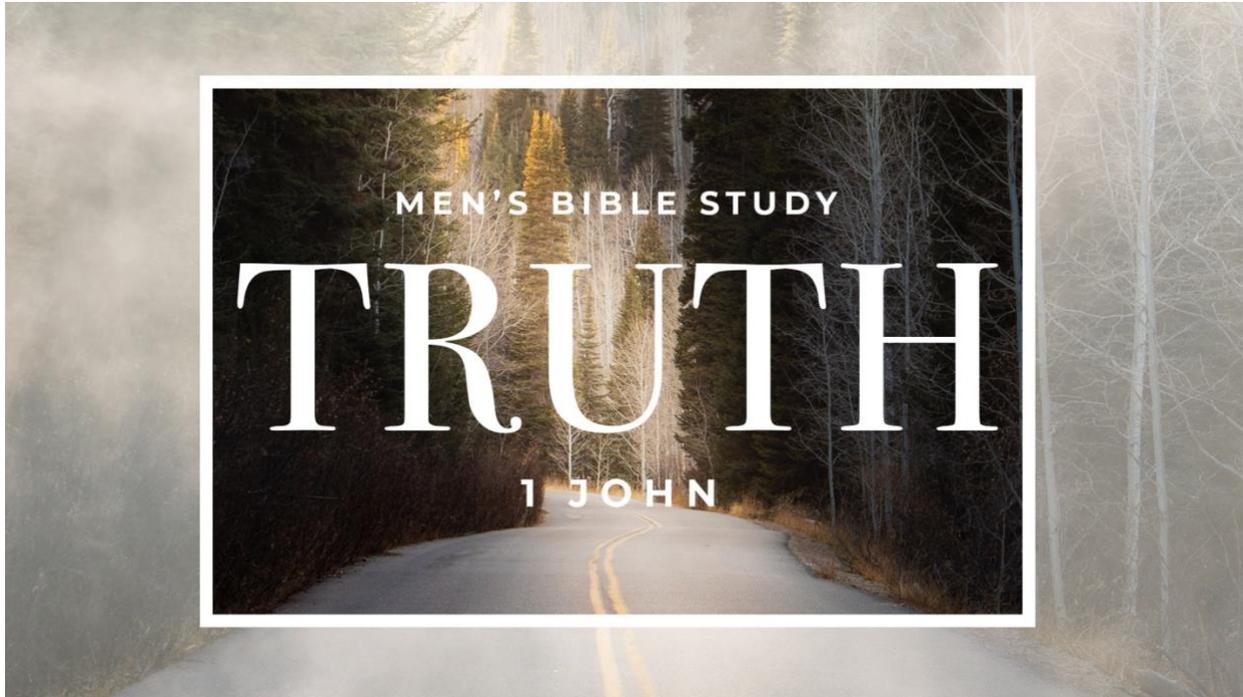


+eastridge church



SESSION TWO:

“LIGHT”

1 John 1:5-2:6

SESSION TWO TEACHING NOTES

Scripture Memory: 1 John 1:1-2 (NIV)

1 *That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked at and our hands have touched – this we proclaim concerning the Word of life. **2** The life appeared; we have seen it and testify to it, and we proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and has appeared to us.*

This Week's Study Passage: 1 John 1:5-2:6

Three Pieces of News...

1. The Good News: God is _____

Genesis 1:3

John 1:4-5

2. The Bad News: We are _____

3. The Greatest News: Jesus _____ For _____

John 12:27-28

Romans 3:25-26

Two Words of Encouragement...

1. _____ in the _____ of God

A. Confess Sin _____

B. Receive Grace _____

C. Obey the Word _____

2. _____ to the _____ of God

WHAT'S YOUR HIGHLIGHT?

Review your notes from this week's teaching. Was there anything that caught your attention, challenged you, or confused you?

QUICK OVERVIEW

John now turns to consider the implications of God's character for the lives of God's children. Those who claim to know God must walk in the light because God is light. He is holy, and He sees and knows everything about us, including our thoughts and secret motives. Gratefully, God is also gracious and forgiving. And, as we will see in the week's passage, our response to this gracious and holy God is an indicator of our spiritual condition.

DIGGING DEEPER

"If people really knew me, they would be shocked or disappointed."

Many people feel that way, though they don't often say it out loud. The thought of having our sins and weaknesses exposed before others is extremely uncomfortable.

- **What are some ways we try to hide or deny our sins and weaknesses?**

In order to respond to God rightly, we need to understand what God is like. John begins by telling us that "God is light, and in him is no darkness at all" (1:5). For God to be light means that He is the source of pure life and perfect goodness. This idea of God as light is closely related to God's holiness, an attribute that sets Him apart from every created thing.

Read Genesis 1:3; John 1:4-5; and John 8:12

- **What do these references to "light" teach us about God?**
- **How does the fact that God has "no darkness" make Him unique?**

John mentions the word "sin" nine times in this week's passage, and he says that God's children are not to walk in "darkness" (v.6). In fact, we are deceived if we claim that we *are not* sinners (v.8).

- **Why does it make sense that John would follow up a discussion of God as "light" in verse 5 with so many references to our sin?**

Some Christians wrongly assume that spiritual maturity will result in sinless living (or nearly sinless living), which leads them to worry about their spiritual condition when they continue to battle sin and feel its allure. Other Christians recognize that the presence of sin is still a reality in the life of every believer, but they respond to God's ongoing forgiveness and grace by treating their own sin lightly and by downplaying the need for obedience.

- **How can 1 John 1:6-10 guard us against both of these errors?**

Sin involves refusing to obey God's Word in our thoughts, words, actions, and motives. The Bible says that we not only commit acts of sin but are born with a sinful nature, unable to obey God. Before God gave us new life, we were "dead in...trespasses and sins" (Eph. 2:1).

- **In light of this reality, what is wrong with looking within yourself for strength and hope?**

The Bible teaches that our sin deserves God's eternal judgment (Rom. 6:23). However, some people object, claiming that God would never punish people for sin.

- **How would the idea of God as light and as perfectly holy and just help you respond to this objection?**

How can a holy god show His love to sinners given that they deserve His wrath? That is the most important question in the Bible, and it is one that this passage helps us answer. According to 1 John 2:2, Jesus is the "atoning sacrifice for our sins." While Christ died to secure our salvation, His sacrifice was ultimately a satisfaction of God's perfect justice.

- **How should Christ's sacrifice on the cross compel us to confess our sin to God rather than deny it?**

John tells us that Christ is not only the atoning sacrifice for our sins but also "for the sins of the whole world" (2:3).

- **How does this truth give you confidence in sharing your faith? How might it give the church confidence in obeying Christ's command to "make disciples of all nations" (Matt. 28:19)?**

REFLECT AND DISCUSS

