



FORSAKING DARKNESS
LIVING IN LIGHT

1ST JOHN

Sunday Mornings with Pastor Jeff

AN INTRODUCTION TO 1ST JOHN: TURNING ON THE LIGHT IN OUR LIVES

Most people have expectations for their lives. What kind of life are you looking expectantly for?

- What are you living in expectance of?
- Do you have a plan to get where you want to go?

Spiritually, having childlike faith/trust and receiving from the Lord with childlike expectation is a good thing.

- Far from having arrived, we are in the process of becoming more and more like Christ as we mature in Him. **1 John 3:2-3**

BENEFITS OF THE LIGHT

- With a flick of the wall switch, the light chases away shadows or deception.
- Light keeps us on the right track or trail.
- Specific lights warn, guide, illuminate, regulate, stimulate, and decorate.
- Light—pure and bright—cuts through darkness, exposing reality and demanding attention.
- Here in this first letter, John urges all believers in every age to forsake darkness and live in the light. **1 John 1:5-7**

VITAL STATISTICS & PURPOSE

- Written to: The letter is untitled and was written to no particular church. It was written to all believers everywhere.
- Date written: Between 85 and 90 AD from Ephesus
- Setting: John was a well-worn, senior saint—an older man—and perhaps the only surviving apostle at this time.
- Purpose and key verse: *“I write this to you who believe in the Son of God, so that you may know you have eternal life”* **1 John 5:13**—assurance of our faith.

DEALING WITH DARKNESS!

- Do you yearn for direction in life? John reminds us to **follow the light**—follow Jesus; be His disciple.
- Do you doubt and wonder what is real? John encourages us to **turn on His light**—study His Word.
- Do you find yourself stumbling and falling? John's answer to us is **walk in the light**—be led by the Spirit.
- John got his understanding about Jesus, the Light of the world, from Jesus Himself.

WELCOME TO REALITY

“Once upon a time, in a land far, far away . . .” Remember how exciting those words used to be?

- Now perhaps you’ve discovered that life is more Dunkirk than Disneyland, and fairy tales and legends are no longer all that enticing.
- For millennia, men have looked for reality and satisfaction in pleasure, wealth, thrills, conquest, power, learning, and even in organized religion.
- The reality is the life that we have in Christ, and only that life, can satisfy. That is the only life really worth living.

JESUS IS THE LIGHT OF LIFE

John had discovered that his satisfaction and most fulfilling reality is not found in things or thrills, but in a ***personal relationship with Jesus Christ, the Son of God.***

- As the oldest living apostle, John was the “elder statesman” of Christianity.
- He had watched the church deal with conflict from within and persecution from without. The light of Jesus was the answer then and Jesus, the Light of Life, is our only answer now.