

# The Last Eyewitness, II

*Into the Light (1 Jn 1:5-10)*

October 5, 2003

## LIGHTS OUT

In Ephesus in 85 A.D. there lived the last eyewitness to the ministry of Jesus. In his old age, the Apostle John penned a gospel, three letters, and the book of Revelation.

Our passage today talks about those who claim to walk in the light but actually walk in darkness.

### [House lights extinguish]

As Bruce speaks, a small crash occurs.

Ken: Does it seem dark to you?

Bruce: No. It's plenty bright.

As Bruce continues to speak, three separate crashes occur.

Ken: You sure it's not too dark?

Bruce: It's fine. Can I continue, please?

As Bruce tries once again, a ridiculously huge crash occurs.

Ken: You okay?

Bruce: Maybe it is a bit dim.

### [House lights up]

This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you: God is light; in him there is no darkness at all. If we claim to have fellowship with him yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live by 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, purifies us from all sin. If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. If we claim we have not sinned, we make him out to be a liar and his word has no place in our lives. – 1 John 1:5-10 NIV

## GOD IS LIGHT

John gives us one of the key, defining characteristics of God:

... we have heard from him and declare to you: God is light ... - 1 John 1:5 NIV

- Not *a light* or even *the light*; God is quite simply: *light*.

Q: Know what Einstein theorized would happen if we could travel at the speed of light?

1. Time would stop – you’d enter the realm of eternity
2. Mass would expand infinitely – you’d be omnipresent

Remember, when John wrote this letter he was combating the:

- Ebionites [ee-bee-uh-nites] who denied the *deity* of Christ
- Docetists [doe-suh-tists] who denied the *humanity* of Jesus

They rejected the paradox of Jesus as 100% God and 100% man. John could’ve used this *Newsweek* article from July 20, 1998:

Take the difficult Christian concept of Jesus as both fully divine and fully human. It turns out that this duality has a parallel in quantum physics. ... light is simultaneously, wave and particle. – *Newsweek*, July 20, 1998; pg.51

The most amazing thing about light is the “trinity of color”. Take a look at this “white” circle from the video projector. Actually, it’s not white. If we were to enlarge it, it would look like this (circles of three individual colors). It’s the science of color trinity.

There are 3 primary colors of light: green, blue, and red. And they combine to create every other color of light.

- But at 100% saturation, these three separate colors combine to create a “full spectrum” of brilliant white light.

Every TV employs the principle of color trinity (think *Trinitron*). The next time someone says you watch too much TV, just tell ‘em you’re learning about God!

Light not only has a paradoxical dual nature (as did Jesus) it operates as a trinity (as do the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit).

John was repeating what “We have heard from him.” He didn’t know that physical light bears the image and stamp of its Creator.

## THREE FALSE CLAIMS

John gives us three false claims in these six verses:

If we claim to have fellowship with him yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live by the truth. - 1 John 1:6 NIV

No one who walks in darkness, John says, can possibly claim to be in fellowship with the One who *is* Light.

- Things in the light can't help but reflect that light

Q: As a child, were you ever afraid of the dark? Are you still?

It's good to beware of anyone claims to follow Christ yet has a lifestyle that contradicts His Word.

- This doesn't mean that those in the light are sinless.

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, purifies us from all sin. - 1 John 1:7 NIV

Q: So, what's it mean to walk in the light?

Q: How do we know when we're walking in it?

- Light exposes hidden things (darkness hides them)

Not only do we reflect Jesus, we live an exposed, transparent life - not attempting to hide our sin but dealing with it.

- When we hide our sin we harbor darkness

And also, if I compare my dim-bulb to some other believer's dimmer bulb, I can feel pretty bright. To walk in the light "as he is in the light" means that I only compare my "wattage" to Christ; He's my one-and-only standard.

If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. - 1 John 1:8 NIV

Q: Who in their right mind claims to be without sin?

A: Anyone who marginalizes their sinful attitudes or actions.

- When we play-down our sin, we only fool ourselves

When we live a transparent life, our sense of value and joy come from being loved and forgiven as we are. It's the freedom from having to deceive ourselves in order to raise a sense of worth.

John gives three false claims and one confession of truth:

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. – 1 John 1:9 NIV

- False believers claim they are strong
- True believers confess they are weak

There's a difference between being forgiven and being purified:

1. We are forgiven for specific actions and words
2. We are purified from the attitudes behind them

We are forgiven for what we have done, and then we are cleansed from the guilt and shame of what we are (sinners by nature). God has accepted the blood of Christ as full payment for both our sinful conduct and our sinful condition.

- Forgiveness looks backward while purification looks forward

If we claim we have not sinned, we make him out to be a liar and his word has no place in our lives. – 1 John 1:10 NIV

For the light of His Word to take root in our hearts, we must refuse to stifle our conscience, blame others, justify shameful words and actions, or whatever else numbs us to our sin.

The thing is as believers we often take such quick little steps into the dark side that it's easy to ignore that we even do it. Therefore, I want to give you a device that will actually alert you to when you've stepped into the dark-side. [It's a dark rubber band to wear on your wrist].

- When you catch yourself saying or doing something unfitting for someone *walking in the light* ... just *snap* to attention!

Now, by wearing this, you give others permission to snap it! It's like a sadistic version of the W.W.J.D. band!

You can wear it as long as you like; but I'm only asking you to wear it for the rest of the day ... to sensitize yourself to sin.

You might be surprised how often you need "aversion therapy"!