

SHINING THE LIGHT OF GOD

READ TEXT: **1 JOHN 1:5-10**

5. THIS IS THE MESSAGE WE HEARD FROM JESUS AND NOW DECLARE TO YOU: GOD IS LIGHT, AND THERE IS NO DARKNESS IN HIM AT ALL. 6. SO WE ARE LYING IF WE SAY WE HAVE FELLOWSHIP WITH GOD BUT GO ON LIVING IN SPIRITUAL DARKNESS; WE ARE NOT PRACTICING THE TRUTH. 7. BUT IF WE ARE LIVING IN THE LIGHT, AS GOD IS IN THE LIGHT, THEN WE HAVE FELLOWSHIP WITH EACH OTHER, AND THE BLOOD OF JESUS, HIS SON, CLEANSSES US FROM ALL SIN. 8. IF WE CLAIM WE HAVE NO SIN, WE ARE ONLY FOOLING OURSELVES AND NOT LIVING IN THE TRUTH. 9. BUT IF WE CONFESS OUR SINS TO HIM, HE IS FAITHFUL AND JUST TO FORGIVE US OUR SINS AND TO CLEANSE US FROM ALL WICKEDNESS. 10. IF WE CLAIM WE HAVE NOT SINNED, WE ARE CALLING GOD A LIAR AND SHOWING THAT HIS WORD HAS NO PLACE IN OUR HEARTS.

BEGIN

THE APOSTLE JOHN SPEAKS FIRSTHAND OF HIS RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD, AND TO REMIND US OF THE WAY WE ARE TO ALSO LIVE AS GOD'S CHILDREN.

Q: HOW MIGHT WE BEGIN TO LIVE ACCORDING TO GOD'S PLAN FOR HIS CHILDREN?

A: ASK GOD TO REVEAL HIMSELF TO US NO MATTER WHAT DARKNESS SURROUNDS US

1 JOHN 3:1

SEE HOW VERY MUCH OUR FATHER LOVES US, FOR HE CALLS US HIS CHILDREN, AND THAT IS WHAT WE ARE! BUT THE PEOPLE WHO BELONG TO THIS WORLD DON'T RECOGNIZE THAT WE ARE GOD'S CHILDREN BECAUSE THEY DON'T KNOW HIM.

- I WILL SPEAK OF GOD'S AMAZING LOVE

1 JOHN 3:2

DEAR FRIENDS, WE ARE ALREADY GOD'S CHILDREN, BUT HE HAS NOT YET SHOWN US WHAT WE WILL BE LIKE WHEN CHRIST APPEARS. BUT WE DO KNOW THAT WE WILL BE LIKE HIM, FOR WE WILL SEE HIM AS HE REALLY IS.

- I WILL WORK WITH OTHERS TO PROMOTE GOD'S WILL

1 JOHN 3:3

AND ALL WHO HAVE THIS EAGER EXPECTATION WILL KEEP THEMSELVES PURE, JUST AS HE IS PURE.

- I WILL BRING HOPE TO OTHERS

1 JOHN 3:4-8

EVERYONE WHO SINS IS BREAKING GOD'S LAW, FOR ALL SIN IS CONTRARY TO THE LAW OF GOD. 5. AND YOU KNOW THAT JESUS CAME TO TAKE AWAY OUR SINS, AND THERE IS NO SIN IN HIM. 6. ANYONE WHO CONTINUES TO LIVE IN HIM WILL NOT SIN. BUT ANYONE WHO KEEPS ON

SINNING DOES NOT KNOW HIM OR UNDERSTAND WHO HE IS. 7. DEAR CHILDREN, DON'T LET ANYONE DECEIVE YOU ABOUT THIS: WHEN PEOPLE DO WHAT IS RIGHT, IT SHOWS THAT THEY ARE RIGHTEOUS, EVEN AS CHRIST IS RIGHTEOUS. 8. BUT WHEN PEOPLE KEEP ON SINNING, IT SHOWS THAT THEY BELONG TO THE DEVIL, WHO HAS BEEN SINNING SINCE THE BEGINNING. BUT THE SON OF GOD CAME TO DESTROY THE WORKS OF THE DEVIL.

- I WILL SEEK GOD'S HELP WITH RESTORING RIGHTEOUSNESS

I JOHN 3:16, 18-22

WE KNOW WHAT REAL LOVE IS BECAUSE JESUS GAVE UP HIS LIFE FOR US. SO WE ALSO OUGHT TO GIVE UP OUR LIVES FOR OUR BROTHERS AND SISTERS. 18. DEAR CHILDREN, LET'S NOT MERELY SAY THAT WE LOVE EACH OTHER; LET US SHOW THE TRUTH BY OUR ACTIONS. 19. OUR ACTIONS WILL SHOW THAT WE BELONG TO THE TRUTH, SO WE WILL BE CONFIDENT WHEN WE STAND BEFORE GOD. 20. EVEN IF WE FEEL GUILTY, GOD IS GREATER THAN OUR FEELINGS, AND HE KNOWS EVERYTHING. 21. DEAR FRIENDS, IF WE DON'T FEEL GUILTY, WE CAN COME TO GOD WITH BOLD CONFIDENCE. 22. AND WE WILL RECEIVE FROM HIM WHATEVER WE ASK BECAUSE WE OBEY HIM AND DO THE THINGS THAT PLEASE HIM.

- I WILL HELP THOSE WHO ARE NEAR ME TO FIND STRENGTH FROM GOD

1 JOHN 1:1-4

WE PROCLAIM TO YOU THE ONE WHO EXISTED FROM THE BEGINNING, WHOM WE HAVE HEARD AND SEEN. WE SAW HIM WITH OUR OWN EYES AND TOUCHED HIM WITH OUR OWN HANDS. HE IS THE WORD OF LIFE. 2. THIS ONE WHO IS LIFE ITSELF WAS REVEALED TO US, AND WE HAVE SEEN HIM. AND NOW WE TESTIFY AND PROCLAIM TO YOU THAT HE IS THE ONE WHO IS ETERNAL LIFE. HE WAS WITH THE FATHER, AND THEN HE WAS REVEALED TO US. 3. WE PROCLAIM TO YOU WHAT WE OURSELVES HAVE ACTUALLY SEEN AND HEARD SO THAT YOU MAY HAVE FELLOWSHIP WITH US. AND OUR FELLOWSHIP IS WITH THE FATHER AND WITH HIS SON, JESUS CHRIST. 4. WE ARE WRITING THESE THINGS SO YOU MAY FULLY SHARE OUR JOY.

- I WILL ENCOUNTER GOD UNTIL LIFE BECOMES FULL OF HIS PRAISE

END

GOD WANTS US TO SEEK HIM, AND HIS KINGDOM. FOR US TO BE IN AGREEMENT WITH HIS WILL, AND TO BRING LIGHT - TRUTH - TO OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH HIM.

- LET US COME TO HIM – IF THERE IS SIN, WE MUST CONFESS IT; IF THERE IS WORRY, DOUBT, OR FEAR, WE MUST DETHRONE IT AND ASK GOD TO REPLACE IT WITH HIS PRECIOUS SON JESUS. WE CANNOT ALLOW ANYTHING TO KEEP US FROM LIVING IN THE RIGHTEOUSNESS OF GOD.