

WELCOME!

PHOENIX
INTERNATIONAL CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Sunday Morning Worship
Service!

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Communion



Contribution



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Men's Midweek Service:

7:30PM – SDA Wednesday Night!

Next Sunday, March 1st:

Back here for a great worship service!

Campus/Teen Ministry RETREAT:

Friday March 6th – Sunday March 8th

30\$ Per person, sign up today!



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~Fellowship Break~

“Walk In The Light”

Introduction to 1st John

1. Certainly written by the Apostle John.
 1. **Internal evidence (1 John 1:1, 1 John 1:1,4,14)**
 1. Many shared themes of the gospel of John.
 2. Linguistic and stylistic similarities
 2. **External evidence**
 1. Referred to by Polycarp [69-156AD] who John the Apostle appointed as the church leader in Smyrna. Smyrna (modern-day Izmir) is on the central Western coast of Turkey (Anatolia), Aegean Sea. Early church fathers recognize Polycarp as a disciple of John the Apostle.
 2. Irenaeus [130-202AD] was a disciple of Polycarp and records hearing Polycarp speak about being John the apostle’s disciple. Irenaeus (by Polycarp) was appointed church leader for Lugdunum, Gaul which is modern-day Lyon, France.
 3. Quoted by Papias [70-163AD] (Hierapolis church leader – Western Turkey)
 4. Referred to by Origen [182-254AD] (Christian scholar & theologian, Alexandria, Egypt).
2. Written shortly after the Gospel of John, but before the book of Revelation.
 1. The Gospel of John was written during the 80’s AD and the book of Revelation ~95AD.

(1) We Shall Overcome – Through Proclamation.

1 John 1:1-4

- This teaching is from an eyewitness, literally a “hands-on” disciple of Jesus Christ.
- From the beginning. The Word of life. The life appeared, and it was “the eternal life” and was “with the Father.” Their proclamation of Jesus Christ created fellowship between them – and God.
 - Without proclamation there is no fellowship. Wonder why you are not close to other disciples? You are not proclaiming Christ **to each other** (what he’s doing in your life) and **with each other** to a lost world. The good news email serves to build fellowship bonds with us to other disciples!

John 1:1-5 (cf. Genesis 1:26), John 1:14, John 1:17

- The Word was God, The Word was With God. In the Word was life. That life was the light of men!
- Are you full of grace AND truth?
 - Charis: that which gives joy, pleasure, delight, sweetness, charm, loveliness: grace of speech
 - Translated “favor” with God (Mary - Luke 1:30, Jesus as a child - Luke 2:40)
 - Translated “credit” in loving those who love you (Luke 6:32)
 - Aletheia: what is true in any matter under consideration.
 - Are you pursuing truth or satisfied defining your own? Creating a truth? A religious or philosophical potpourri? Pilate asked “what is truth...” Jesus said, in **John 14:6** “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”

John 1:17

- The Word became flesh. Who came from the Father and full of grace and truth? Who is the WORD, The WORD of Life? Jesus Christ! (John 1:17) Is that what you proclaim?

(2) The LORD Will See Us Through – When We Live By The Truth.

1 John 1:5-7

- GOD (Jesus [the Word]) is LIGHT. No DARKNESS at ALL. No deceit. The Greek word for “darkness” is “skotos” also means “dimness” or “obscurity.” We’d say “shady” or “sketch.”
- The challenge here, walk in the light...or walk in the lie. Which is it this morning? Think deeply about this, as it (walking in the light/lie) determines if you have fellowship with your brothers and sisters, with “one another” and if the blood of Jesus is going to purify you from all sin.
- What does it mean to WALK in the light? Why *wouldn't* we WALK in the LIGHT?

John 3:19-21

- Love darkness instead of light, why? Sin. Evil deeds. If we are still doing evil, we'll hate the light. Resent correction much? Won't come into the light, come into GOD (Jesus[the Word]), why? Exposed. It's humbling to confess sins, it makes us vulnerable, open to being judged by others.
 - This puts us in a position where we are sensitized to our sins, we allow others to confront us with the Word, and we rely on them having mercy in our relationship. We need their forgiveness and it helps us understand how we need God's mercy.
 - When we are not open about sin, we get critical and suspicious of others. You don't trust anyone's motives readily, and because you are focused on MAN and not GOD, you lack the mercy to offer trust in your relationships. If you forgave others, God would forgive you. You'd feel that “favor,” that “grace” – God's *pleasure/favor* with you.
 - But when we are in the darkness, we don't resolve relationships. We obscure, we dim, we gloss over and avoid that disciple and avoid the truth. When this happens, the God centric relationship GOD wants his family to have is stolen by darkness. Time to GET in the LIGHT. GOD is LIGHT!
 - Walk in the light – your evil deeds will get exposed. It will humble you. It will hurt. But it will make clear to all, what you do that is righteous is not because of your self-righteousness, but because of the mercy of our God, who is LIGHT. **Psalm 137:7-12.**

(3) It Is On To Victory – By Confessing Our Sins!

1 John 1:5-10

- If we claim to be without sin we are self-deceived and the truth, which is JESUS (John 14:6), is not in us.
- Religious? We can easily mistake belief **without obedience** as freedom in Christ.
- No one can claim the truth is in them without confession, exposure, walking in the light!
 - **James 5:16. HEALING & POWER** - Confessing sins is how you get **healed**. So much pain out there. Love the CR ministry. Discipling gives a new heart to those that pursue it. PRAY for each other! Confessing sins purifies us from what? All unrighteousness! That gives us **POWER** in our prayers!
 - **1 John 1:7. FELLOWSHIP**. Confessing sins is how we have fellowship with one another. Brings us closer to one another, helps us understand one another, forgive one another, help one another.
 - **1 John 1:9. PURIFIED – Matthew 5:8** – Confessing sins is how you are purified as a disciple! When you are pure in heart, you will see God! You'll see real changes. Confession is not repentance, but it is most certainly the first step to freedom!

Rom 3:9-12, 23.

- In fact, if we claim we have not sinned, we make Jesus out to be a liar.
- The Word of God says “**everyone sins.**”

(3) It Is On To Victory – By Confessing Our Sins!

When we confess our sins, we defeat the slavery of self-deception.

John 8:34-36

Everyone who sins is a slave to sin. Therefore, everyone is in slavery. The only way to be free from this slavery? **John 8:31-32. Do what Jesus tells you to do. “Hold” to his teaching.** Know the truth because you choose to live by it. You can know the bible and still NOT KNOW the TRUTH.

- **James 1:22** (self-deceived, passive/aggressive rejection) "How you feeling?" They'll shade it....
 - Get honest in the moment. Avoiding truth, so the word has no place in your life. (**Heb 4:12-13**) Get open about thoughts and attitudes in your heart and the word can judge them!
- **Galatians 6:7-9** (self-deceived, denial, out of touch, mocking God) Rationalize & minimize sins.
 - Weariness becomes bitterness which manifests entitlement. Fooled into thinking misery gives us entitlement to slip up, to pout, to curse, to rage, to vomit, to gossip, to mope, to complain. Remember Luke 9:23 and **the cross**. Respond like Jesus!
 - You're mocking God and rejecting is discipline. (**Heb 12:5-7**) the very word of encouragement that endears you, and endorses you, as a child of God.
- **Titus 3:3-7** (self-deceived, enslaved by passions and pleasures) Open about actions, not heart.
 - Prov 20:5. Dig into the motives. Why enslaved (idolatry? Bitterness?)

In Closing...

(1) We Shall Overcome – Through Proclamation.

(2) The LORD Will See Us Through – When We Live By The Truth.

(3) It Is On To Victory – By Confessing Our Sins!

***Walk in the light through proclamation, holding to Jesus' teachings,
and confessing our sin to one another!***

We are family – until the end!

~Thank you for coming~

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