

## THE LIE DETECTOR!

1 John 1:5 – 2:2

The Gathering Place

September 23, 2007

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A man was walking late at night and saw another man who appeared to be searching for something near a street light. He asked the man what he was looking for. The man told him that he had lost his watch. The first man asked, “Do you have any idea where you might have dropped it.” Still continuing to search the man pointed to the other side of the street and said “over there”. Incredulous, the first man exclaimed, “well then sir, why are you looking for it over here?” The searcher replied, “BECAUSE THE LIGHT IS BETTER OVER HERE!”

Of course he had no chance of ever finding his watch in the location in which he was doing the search; however, it also points up the fact that it is pretty hard to find what you are looking for without proper light.

John declares in verse 7 of our text ***“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.”***

The tragedy of our day is that people are looking for life in all the wrong places. People are walking in the darkness and expecting to find the answers to their questions and longings deep within. They are looking for happiness, community, spirituality, fulfillment, passion, pleasure, power, ... in all the wrong places.

Why is that happening?

SIN is the problem!

SIN keeps us in darkness. ***God is light – IN HIM THERE IS NO DARKNESS AT ALL!*** It is impossible to live in sin and at the same time to claim fellowship with God.

**BUT PEOPLE DO THAT ALL THE TIME!** You know and I know people who will say, Yes, I love God – I’m a Christian –

**AND YET,** they are living in a sinful lifestyle. They are constantly doing what they know and we know is contrary to God’s will. Their values are not God’s values. They have little time for God, the things of God, or God’s people.

The Bible says, ***“If we claim to have fellowship with Him yet walk in the darkness, WE LIE AND DO NOT LIVE BY THE TRUTH!”***

**John gives us a spiritual lie detector.**

We can know and everyone around us can know if we are telling the truth or whether we are lying.

**IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO BE WALKING IN DARKNESS AND AT THE SAME TIME BE WALKING WITH GOD!**

**In Him there is no darkness AT ALL!**

The problem is not darkness ... the problem is what causes us to choose darkness rather than light. And that which causes us to choose the darkness rather than light is our **SINFUL NATURE!** John has two important themes in this letter ... **SIN and LOVE.**

The person who is truly living in Christ will be filled with God's kind of love – a “laying-down-your-life-for-the-other” kind of love.

What keeps us from living that kind of love life will always be SIN. All sin is really tied to “self-worship”. **First**, it says – I know better than God – so I'll make my own rules, **Second**, it says – I'm # 1 (so everybody you owe me), **Third**, it blames the God of the Bible – the TRUE AND ONLY GOD -- for everything that goes wrong (because when I am god it surely couldn't be my fault)

And the result is DARKNESS AND BONDAGE TO THE DARKNESS ... Blindness – if you live in the dark long enough, you will go blind!

The solution:

1. Agree with God about our condition. ***If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.***

The word translated from Greek into English here, literally means “to agree”. In other words, we do not claim innocence when charged with being a sinner. We change our plea and without excuse AGREE with GOD with respect to the charge.

***If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.*** (verse 8)

***If we claim we have not sinned, we make Him out to be a liar and His word has no place in our lives.***

God will not force a confession from us ... the text says **“if we confess”** Its out choice. God makes known our condition ... His Word tells us ... His Spirit convicts us and draws us ... but the choice is ours!

Don't blame God or the Devil if you perish. The problem is not the darkness or the light. Jesus came to dispel the darkness, to release us from the chains that bind us, to release us from the POWER and the PENALTY of sin.

I John 3:5

***But you know that He appeared so that He might take away our sins. And in Him is no sin. No one who lives in Him keeps on sinning. No one who continues to sin has either seen Him or known Him.***

1 John 3:8

***The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the devil's work. No one who is born of God will continue to sin, because God's seed remains in him; he cannot go on sinning because he has been born of God.***

2. When we confess to the judge ... We have an advocate with the Father!

For me this is one of the greatest statements in the whole Bible – right up there with John 3:16

***My dear children (Little children – KJV), I write this to you so that you will not sin. BUT IF ANYBODY DOES SIN, we have one who speaks to the Father in our defense—Jesus Christ, the Righteous One. He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world.***

I'm so glad God doesn't say ... If after I have forgiven you, you ever sin again ... YOU WILL FRY FOREVER, because you are a sinner. NO! He says, If you sin, you have an advocate!!!

The plan of God for us is that we will not SIN. Sin puts us into darkness, sin drives us away from fellowship with each other and with God.

SIN will cause us to try and hide ... hence the darkness. Sin will cause us to run from God and run from our brothers and sisters.

Sin caused Adam and Eve to try to hide from God.

In our Pastor's Prayer Fellowship this week we were encouraging each other to continue in fellowship. We have had some failures in the lives of pastors in our region. Invariably those who get in difficulty are absent around the table. It doesn't mean all those at the table are necessarily living right, but when a person begins to absent themselves from the fellowship of believers – usually it indicates a problem!

This is why we need to be in a Growing Place Group of some kind. When you are in the fellowship of a group, its hard to hide. You and I can hide rather easily in a crowd like this, but in a small group of believers, meeting regularly every week – its much harder to hide.

BY THE WAY, have you signed up for the LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT DAY .. September 29 (next Saturday)
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Hebrews 10:25

***Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.***

When I confess my sins I have someone who speaks to the Father in my defense – Jesus!

WHAT A LAWYER!

Everyone knows by now the O. J. Simpson is in trouble again.

The first time took 9 months of testimony. But it took the jury only 3 hours to arrive at the verdict of ACQUITTAL. The law experts and commentators attributed that to the masterful job done by Simpson's attorneys. Simpson had assembled some of the nation's brightest and most successful attorneys to defend him. It was estimated that he spent over 8 million dollars in attorney fees alone. They were called the 'DREAM TEAM'. Johnnie Cochran, F. Lee Bailey and Robert Shapiro.

Whether or not, you must agree that Simpson's attorney's did their job well and stood by their client to the very end. That's what defense attorneys are supposed to do.

A courtroom drama si being played out daily in our lives. SIN IS THE CRIME!

Sin comes in different packages – different sizes and shapes – and it is fatal – it merits the DEATH SENTENCE!

There is an accuser – a prosecutor—who is pointing his finger at us. Revelation 12:10 identifies Satan as ***“The accuser of our brethren who accuses them before our God day and night”***

He goes around digging up dirt on us. You hear that, he says to the Father, “he took your name in vain again!” “She just told a lie to get out of another lie, God!” “God, he didn’t report all of his income on his Tax Return”; “God, she just accepted too much change from the cashier”. “God, he just had a lustful thought about his neighbour”; “God, he looked a pornography again!” “God she said some awful things to her colleague at work – and thought murder in her heart”; “God did you see what that young couple were doing on their date”

The ACCUSER – THE PROSECUTER of your case before God is not the Lord Jesus, not the Holy Spirit, and not God the Father either! The accuser is the devil!

He doesn’t have to fabricate anything either – we all have done enough to fill more books that the world could hold.

So we stand today before the Judge of all the earth.

Satan is accusing us. But standing beside us is not OJ Simpson’s DREAM TEAM – instead we have Jesus Christ the righteous as our DEFENSE COUNSEL, OUR ADVOCATE!

With Jesus on our side, REGARDLESS OF THE CHARGE we will be declared JUSTIFIED!

AMAZING – the Judge knows we are guilty, the Prosecutor knows we are guilty and the DEFENSE ATTORNEY knows we are guilty – but the verdict is better than ACQUITTED OR PARDONED – WE ARE JUSTIFIED!

Our attorney not only defends us – He has paid the penalty for our SIN! He has taken our place! Do you know any lawyer for the defense who if his client is found guilty will step in front of the judge and say let him go free because I WILL TAKE HIS PLACE!

When I confess my sins, I’m no longer controlled by SIN. I’M TRULY FREE!

I WRITE THIS SO YOU WILL NOT SIN!

God does not want us to be casual about sin or controlled by sin. God wants us to confess, experience cleansing, new birth and be free!

Are you living a lie, are you living in self-deception; are you still walking in the dark; or are you walking in the light as He is in the light!