



FORSAKING DARKNESS  
LIVING IN LIGHT

# 1ST JOHN

Sunday Mornings with Pastor Jeff

# ***OUR NEMESIS, SIN***

## ***1 JOHN 1:5-10***

The one thing we all struggle with periodically is sin in the life of the believer.

- What do we do? Option A (**v. 8**) or Option B (**v. 9**)?
- **Nemesis**: Anyone or anything that seems to be the inevitable cause of defeat or frustration.
- Jesus came to save us from our nemesis, our archenemy—sin and the consequences of missing the mark, death. **Rom 6:23; John 3:16-17**

## ***WHAT ARE YOU AIMING AT?***

- Our moral decisions depend on where we want to get to: **light and life or darkness and death.**
- It is clear that our Christian life is to amount to more than mere **talk**. We must also **walk**, or live, what we believe.
- If we are in sin, “walking in darkness,” then our lives will contradict what our lips are saying, making us hypocrites.
- In **Galatians 5:16-26**, Paul gives us the stark contrast of what we should be aiming at and what a miss looks like!

# ***WE SHOULD BE GETTING WORSE AT SINNING!***

If a believer decides to live independent from God, how can he possibly walk in fellowship with God? **Amos 3:3**

- Sin is not simply outward disobedience; sin is also inner rebellion or desire.
- Sin is refusal to submit to the law of God. Lawlessness, or independence of the law, is the very essence of sin.
- We are supposed to be doing God's thing, not our own thing. Not sinless, but definitely sinning less.

## ***TWO OPTIONS: A & B***

**Option A:** We can try to cover our sins.

- How do Christians try to cover up their sins? **By telling lies!** First, we tell lies to *others*. **v. 6**
- Once one begins to lie to others, he/she will **sooner or later lie to himself**, and our passage deals with this. **v. 8**
- It is possible for a believer to live in sin yet convince himself that everything is fine in his relationship to the Lord. Example, King David in **2 Samuel 11 & 12**.

## ***SELF-DECEPTION IS THE WORST KIND***

Once we begin to lie to others, it may not be long before we actually believe our own lies—which leads to real trouble!

- The spiritual decline in our lives becomes even worse.  
**The next step is trying to lie to God. v. 10**
- Believers who have reached this low level are usually highly critical of other Christians.
- Often strongly resisting applying the Word to their own lives and making excuses for their own rebellion to God's Word and ways. ***Sin has a deadly way of spreading.***

## ***IT'S ABOUT SPIRITUAL INTEGRITY***

We must be honest with ourselves, others, and God; otherwise we become spiritual losers.

- One of the first symptoms of walking in darkness is a loss of blessings from the Bible.
- A spiritually dishonest person loses something else—his fellowship with God and with God's people. **v. 6-7**
- The third loss is really the result of the first two—the believer loses his character, as we will see in **1 John 2:4**.
- The process starts out with him ***telling lies***, and it ends up with him ***becoming a liar!***

## ***OPTION B: CONFESSION***

All God really asks of us is that, when we have failed, we confess our sins—resulting in forgiveness and cleansing. And then go and sin no more—stop it!

- To confess sin, then, means to say the same thing about it that God says about it. We agree it's totally wrong.
- But this promise is not a “magic sin-off eraser” that makes it easy for us to disobey God!
- This cleansing has two sides to it: the judicial and the personal.

## ***OPTION B: THE RESULTS SHOW***

1. The blood of Jesus Christ, shed on the cross, delivers us from the guilt of sin and gives us right standing *justification*, a **judicial** clearing of all charges before God.
2. When our confession is sincere, God does a **personal** cleansing work, restoring fellowship with Him.

We can either:

- A. Lie and hang onto the sin and death, pain, anguish and all its consequences.
- B. Confess and be forgiven and cleansed.  
***Hmm . . . I'll take B.***