

The **Good News** that John Wrote

***...that you may believe that
Jesus is the Christ, the Son of
God, and that believing you
may have life in his name.***

John 20.31

Life in the Spirit

Objectives of the Class

- To behold in our hearts the glory of Christ
- To participate more deeply in life in the Spirit
- To become more conformed to His image
- To pray for and encourage one another

Prayer Before Reading Scripture

Shine within our hearts, loving Master, the pure light of Your divine knowledge and open the eyes of our minds that we may comprehend the message of Your Gospel. Instill in us also reverence for Your blessed commandments, so that having conquered all sinful desires, we may pursue a spiritual life, thinking and doing all those things that are pleasing to You. For You, Christ our God, are the light of our souls and bodies, and to You we give glory together with Your Father who is without beginning and Your all holy, good, and life giving Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages. Amen.

Study

John 8.12

1 John 1.5-2.6

Walking in the Light

Part 2

John 8.12

Again Jesus spoke to them, saying,
“I am the light of the world; he who
follows me will not walk in darkness,
but will have the light of life.”

Evidence We Walk in Darkness

- 1. We deny we have sin and do not turn from it.**
- 2. We disobey God's commandments.**
- 3. We are not like Christ in our attitudes, words, and actions.**
- 4. We hate one or more people.**
- 5. We love possessions and the praise of others more than God.**
- 6. We have beliefs that are not Orthodox or we cut ourselves off from the Church.**

Evidence We Walk in the Light

- 1. We acknowledge our sin, confess it, and turn from it.**
- 2. We obey God's commandments.**
- 3. We are like Christ in our attitudes, words, and actions.**
- 4. We keep the commandment to love one another.**
- 5. We love God, not the world.**
- 6. We stay within the faith.**

1 John 2.3

And by this we may be sure that we know him, if we keep his commandments.

1 John 2.4

He who says “I know him” but
disobeys his commandments is a liar,
and the truth is not in him;

1 John 2.5-6

But if we obey his word, we are the ones whose love for God has really been made perfect. This is how we can be sure that we are in union with God: if we say that we remain in union with God, we should live just as Jesus Christ did.

1 John 2.7

Beloved, I am writing you no new commandment, but an old commandment which you had from the beginning; the old commandment is the word which you have heard.

1 John 2.8

Yet I am writing you a new commandment, which is true in him and in you, because the darkness is passing away and the true light is already shining.

1 John 2.9-11

He who says he is in the light and hates his brother is in the darkness still. He who loves his brother abides in the light, and in it there is no cause for stumbling. But he who hates his brother is in the darkness and walks in the darkness, and does not know where he is going, because the darkness has blinded his eyes.

1 John 2.15-16

Do not love the world or anything that belongs to the world. If you love the world, you do not love the Father. Everything that belongs to the world—what the sinful self desires, what people see and want, and everything in this world that people are so proud of—none of this comes from the Father; it all comes from the world.

1 John 2.17

The world and everything in it that people desire is passing away; but those who do the will of God live forever.

Fr Zacharias Zacharou,
The Hidden Man of the Heart

In the early stages of repentance, the believer carries the small cross that God's Providence, in His discernment and love for mankind, has foreseen in the life of each one of us.

Fr Zacharias Zacharou,
The Hidden Man of the Heart

Our personal cross is shaped according to our specific need to be liberated from every form of passionate attachment, and unless we carry it we will never be able to love God our Creator and Benefactor with a free heart and run His course faithfully and steadily.

Fr Zacharias Zacharou,
The Hidden Man of the Heart

In other words, we take up our cross in response to the commandment to repent, and it becomes the key to our entry into the great and eternal inheritance, which Christ gained for us through His Cross and Resurrection.

1 John 2.18-19

Children, it is the last hour; and as you have heard that antichrist is coming, so now many antichrists have come; therefore we know that it is the last hour. They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would have continued with us; but they went out, that it might be plain that they all are not of us.

John 8.12

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Questions?
Comments?