



THE SEVIERVILLE SOWER

Sowing the seed (Luke 8:11) into the hearts of mankind.

Sevierville Church of Christ | 208 Hicks Drive | Sevierville, TN 37862 | (865) 453-8009 | seviervillecoc.org

February 6, 2022

Walking in the Light

George McNulty

A rich tapestry of life-enhancing guides appear throughout Holy Scripture. Far too often, we read the Bible as if it's like a modern novel, but this is a great disservice to the Word of God. One such example of a guide is found in the apostle John's first letter.

John mentioned, over thirty times, that we are to know that God is the light in which we seek to dwell. In 1 John 1:5, he wrote, "This is the message which we have heard from Him and declare to you, that God is light and in Him is no darkness at all" (NKJV). In fact, he said, "And the light shines in darkness" (John 1:5).

We're taught in 1 John 2:29 that our God is a righteous God. "If you know that He is righteous, you know that everyone who practices righteousness is born of Him." John encouraged his readers to live right, according to God's will. He also stated that God is love! "He who does not love does not know God, for God is love. And we have known and believed the love that God has for us. God is love, and he who abides in love abides in God, and God in him" (1 John 4:8, 16).

Our mighty and compassionate Creator is also life! "And this is the testimony: that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life" (1 John 5:11-12). In his second letter, John declared God to be truth, and in the third epistle, he proclaimed that God is good.

So, if we know these things about God, how should we conduct our lives in accordance with God's will? The following seven points show us the way to a good and faithful Christian life.

First, in 1 John 1:6, we are told to walk in the light. God's light reveals sin in our lives. His Word convicts us, and we must cast all uncleanness from our lives (Hebrews 4:12).

Secondly, we must never think we are better than others. According to 1 John 1:10, Christians are flawed human beings and must live in the full knowledge that **we depend upon Christ's finished work at Calvary for salvation**. It is essential to our walk that we maintain a cleansed condition in God's sight. We're told in John 1:8-9, "If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

Thirdly, obedience to the will of God is essential to our good spiritual health. How can we claim to love Him if we refuse to obey His commands (Luke 6:46)? First John 2:4 declares, "He who says, 'I know Him,' and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him." Let us never be found in disobedience to any part of God's commands.

Fourth, John tells us to have a Christ-like mind. "He who says he abides in Him ought himself also to walk just as He walked" (1 John 2:6). Jesus Himself said, "Follow me" (Matthew 4:19). Let us ever search our hearts and Scripture in doing just that!

Fifth, we are to practice a loving, practical care for others. "He who says he is in the light, and hates his brother, is in darkness until now" (1 John 2:9). We must abandon grudges and all pettiness. In addition, we must pray for those who harm us and bless them with God's attention!

Sixth, we must avoid the things found in 1 John 2:16. "For all that is in the world — the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life — is not of the Father but is of the world." These three are at the root of all sinful activity.

Finally, in 1 John 2:22, faithful followers of the Lord Jesus Christ are advised to beware of straying from the paths of righteousness. "Who is a liar but he who denies that Jesus is the Christ? He is antichrist who denies the Father and the Son." We deny Him when we turn our backs upon Him; we deny Jesus when we disobey His commands. If we loved Him, we would never consider such unloving betrayal!

We must hold true to the narrow way of Christian living. In 1 John 2:28-29, the apostle summed up his guide perfectly. "And now, little children, abide in Him, that when He appears, we may have confidence and not be ashamed before Him at His coming. If you know that He is righteous, you know that everyone who practices righteousness is born of Him." Righteousness (right living in God's sight) is achieved through obedience to God's will.

Let us seek the paths of light and walk with our Maker till one day we will be with Him forevermore. We pass into the light from darkness through baptism into Christ (Acts 2:38; 17:30; Mark 16:16; Galatians 3:27). Many passages declare the way. Why not enter that shining path of truth and knowledge, and, in so doing, you can know you are walking in the light with Christ?

Prayer Requests & Announcements

Paul and Helen Ostrander have been diagnosed with COVID and are quarantining at home.

Please remember Kevin's aunt, Belinda Lang, in prayer. She is in ICU with COVID and is battling pneumonia. She has also suffered with lupus for many years.

Please keep Dennis Danilchuk in your prayers as his neurologist has had to double his medication because of the severe tremors he has been experiencing.

Rachel Pozdoff's daughter, Lilianna, had tubes put in her ears and her adenoids removed and is doing well after the procedures.

Shirley McKnight continues her recovery at home from successful hip replacement surgery. She is making progress and looking forward to pain-free days.

Paul Rolen, Mary Kate's brother, is recovering from back surgery and is staying with Mary Kate. He has been experiencing considerable pain during his recovery.

Remember Jerry Sutton's brother-in-law, Darrell Layman, in prayer as he is in ICU on a ventilator with COVID complications and kidney failure.

Any ladies planning to attend the Thursday night ladies' Bible classes (6:15 at Amber's house), please see Amber or Courtney so a book can be ordered for you.

The *Great Smoky Mountain Marriage Retreat* will be held February 16–20 at both the Gatlinburg and Sevierville congregations. Sevierville members will be able to attend at our building without cost. For schedule information go to <https://smokymountainmarriage.com>.

We will begin a monthly fellowship night on Friday, February 25 at 6:30 in the fellowship hall (it will usually be held on the third Friday of each month). All are invited to come and bring friends, games, and finger foods.

Continue to Remember...

Chris Bender, John and Helen Carr, Connie Duncan, Dennis and Marty Danilchuk, Lindsey Johnson, Shirley McKnight, Sue Moore, Lyn Morris, Joanne Roark, Shirley Yeager, Becky Duncan (Joe and Connie's daughter-in-law), Adam Lane (son-in-law of Vickie Price), Harlie McClung (John and Helen Carr's 12 year-old great-granddaughter), Anita Ogle (Sherry Simms' friend), Casie Rains (friend of the Hansens), Paul Rolen (Mary Kate's brother), Frankie Simms (Scott Simms' father), Wayne Tart (Tammie Fish's brother).

Ladies' class Thursdays at 6:15 at the Hansen's house

Fellowship lunch: Today

Fellowship night: February 25, 6:30

Monthly afternoon song service: February 27

Evangelism Materials

Extra supplies for our evangelism work are freely available in the supply room to our members. Instructional books, DVDs, and Bible study materials are available. We also have a variety of cards for our Compassion Card work.

Weekly Assemblies

Sunday: Bible Study 9 a.m.
Worship 10 a.m.
Worship 1 p.m.
Wednesday: Bible Class 7 p.m.

You Are Precious to God

Robert Johnson

Every life is precious before God, as He is the Creator of all that is, and through Christ He sustains His creation. The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact expression of His nature, sustaining all things by His powerful word (Hebrews 1:3). Our purpose is found in Him, not in what is only of the flesh. Solomon examined life "under the sun" – life lived only for the here and now. His conclusion of such a focus in life was that it's vanity or futility. "Then I looked on all the works that my hands had done And on the labor in which I had toiled; And indeed all was vanity and grasping for the wind. There was no profit under the sun" (Ecclesiastes 2:11 NKJV). Nothing in the flesh is lasting, not even human life. All our accomplishments, everything in which one may take pride for himself, will pass into history as another generation comes. "Then the dust will return to the earth as it was, And the spirit will return to God who gave it" (Ecclesiastes 12:7).

So, what really matters in life? Well, all of life counts before God, as life does continue beyond the grave. **What makes life count eternally is living in the flesh from the perspective or the dynamic of the spiritual. Without Christ, life is meaningless, because eternal life without Him is impossible.** "Jesus said to him, 'I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me'" (John 14:6). With Christ, there is a difference in life, for today and for eternity. Jesus offers us an abundant life (John 10:10), life as it is truly meant to be lived. We have every good gift, given in every good way, from the Father (James 1:17). We have all spiritual blessings in Christ (Ephesians 1:3) so that we have everything for life and godliness (2 Peter 1:3). As Peter went on to say, "By which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust" (2 Peter 1:4).

Every life is precious to God, as He sent His Son to shed His blood that redemption could be provided and that the hope of eternal life would be real. It is tragic that so many deny the role of the spiritual in life, have nothing for which to hope beyond today. Ezekiel penned, "'Do I have any pleasure at all that the wicked should die?' says the Lord God, 'and not that he should turn from his ways and live?'" (Ezekiel 18:23). We must always factor in God's will for us, that glory lies beyond today. We must use our influence to set a godly example and share the good news of Jesus Christ so that others can have the opportunity for life everlasting.

God knows the heart or the mind of man, and He will render His judgment perfectly. We must never lose sight of the purpose for which we live and let nothing today deter us from living for that goal. With Paul, may our anthem be, "For this reason I also suffer these things; nevertheless I am not ashamed, for I know whom I have believed and am persuaded that He is able to keep what I have committed to Him until that Day" (2 Timothy 1:12).

Elders

Randy Hansen, Robert Moore, Kevin Ruiz, and Jerry Sutton

Deacon

Lenwood Johnson (finance)

Preacher

Kevin Ruiz