

The First Epistle of John

10

Morning Devotions

Select a passage in God's Word. Talk with the Lord as you read the passage, then go back and find one or two verses which the Lord has impressed on your heart and meditate on them.

Morning Study

This morning we begin reading John's first epistle in more detail. This epistle can be divided clearly into six sections:

- **1:1-2:6** – Living in the Light
- **2:7-17** – Loving the Light
- **2:18-27** – Enemies of the Light
- **2:28-3:24** – Children of the Light
- **4:1-21** – Recognizing the Light
- **5:1-21** – Victory of the Light

Let's study the first section, which can be divided into three subsections:

Read 1 John 1:1-4

- What was John proclaiming to his readers? (**1:1-2**).
- What had John seen and was now testifying to? (**1:2**).
- Why was John proclaiming what he had seen and heard? (**1:3**).
- What was John's stated reason for writing this letter? (**1:4**).

Read 1 John 1:5-10

- What was the message that John had heard and was now proclaiming? (**1:5**).
- Who does John say is a liar and does not live by the truth? (**1:6**).
- How are we to walk in the light? (**1:7**).
- What does John say about those who claim to be without sin? (**1:8,10**).
- If we confess our sins, God is faithful to do what? (**1:9**).

Read 1 John 2:1-6

- Why is John writing his letter? (**2:1**).
- If we do sin, what is God's answer? (**2:1-2**).
- How do we know that we have come to know God? (**2:3-5**).
- If you claim to live in Christ, what must you do? (**2:6**).

Memory Verse

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

1 John 1:9

Here are a few suggestions that may help you to memorize your memory verse:

- ➡ Ask the Lord to help you remember his Word (see [John 14:26](#)).
- ➡ Use the version of the Bible you are most familiar with. What you normally read in your Bible is what you need to be memorizing.
- ➡ Don't just memorize the contents of the verse; memorize its "address" (the verse reference) as well. You can do this by following this pattern: Step 1: **reference**; Step 2: **verse content**; Step 3: **reference**. Then repeat steps 1-3. Note that you are quoting the reference twice as many times as you quote the actual verse content. This gives the verse a clear "reference tag."
- ➡ After you have read your memory verse out aloud several times, try going through your memory verse *without* reading your computer screen.
- ➡ Look up your memory verse in your Bible. Look at its immediate context and read the verses that come before and after your memory verse.
- ➡ Print out your memory verse or jot it down on a piece of paper. Take this paper with you when you go to work or do other daily activities. Meditate on the meaning of the verse throughout the day.
- ➡ During your noon appointment with the Lord, take out your memory verse and go over it again. Talk to the Lord about what this verse means to you personally.
- ➡ In the evening (at either your evening study or your evening devotions), see if you can quote your memory verse from memory. Then, without looking at the memory verse itself, see if you can find it in your Bible.
- ➡ The next day, before you begin committing a new verse to memory, rehearse your previous day's memory verse and see if you can remember it (without cheating!).
- ➡ Finally, at the end of the week (possibly on the Sunday), collect all your week's memory verses, rehearse them and see if you can recall them without reading them. Spend a little extra time on any verses you have difficulty recalling.
- ➡ Remember: Don't just memorize a verse. Put it into practice ([James 1:22](#)). It is not being able to quote a verse from memory that counts. It is His Word *abiding* in your heart that counts ([John 15:7](#)). When you actually apply a verse consistently to your daily life, that is when you *truly* know that verse!