

Life is Good Because... God is Light

1 John 1:1-2:2

April 19, 2009

Today, we begin a new sermon series on Life is Good Because...

As children we remember the games we played: Hop-scotch, Jacks, Monopoly, Hide-and- seek, Kick the can, and many more. Did you play Hide-and-seek outside in the dark? That's when we could find the best hiding spots. I remember one time when we hid so well, that my brother couldn't be found. But of course, the next morning he was in his bed. We could hide in the dark, and not be found.

Or maybe you can relate to walking in from outside on a bright sunshiny day, and asking "Why is it so dark in here." Of course, still having your sunglasses on, didn't help.

Or maybe you have seen someone driving around at night with their headlights off.

Maybe a loved one has died, and you believe you are in the dark from grief or loneliness.

There are other times you can think of when you have found yourself in the dark.

But the darkness we are looking at today is different than all of these. It is the absence of Christ – sin. Sin is when we turn away from the light of Christ.

In 1 John, we hear some ideas about sin. What was happening, is that there were some in the church who were spreading rumors about sin. Some said (vs 6) that we can sin and still be in God's light. But we can not be sinning and still be in God's light. When we are in

God's light, we go the other direction of sin. But when we turn away from those things which break our relationship with Christ, then we are walking with our brothers and sisters in God's light.

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Another rumor being spread by those from 1 John was that they did not sin. They simply lied about having sin in their lives. Either that or they were so deceived with the idea of sin, that they had closed their eyes to the fact that they themselves were sinning. When we lie or cover up our sin, we are making statements that are not true about our Savior.

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When I first came to Chapelwood, I was sitting on a front pew, looking up at the large window and then outside to the huge I-beam cross. Feeling blessed to be here, I focused on how God sent his Son to light up the world. And the cross is empty! There is redemption! But just beyond the cross, I saw a twisted tree top. Hurricane Ike had mauled this huge tree, and in the majestic, beautiful trees; there was this one that had been broken. But the cross stands in front of our brokenness. So, that no matter what we encounter, the cross goes before us. Christ goes before us, lighting the path of darkness that surrounds us, at times.

We seem to have our stumbling blocks, when sin gets in the way of our relationship with Christ. 1 John 2:9-11 says:

Whoever says, "I am in the light," while hating a brother or sister, is still in the darkness. Whoever loves a brother or sister lives in the light, and in such a person there is no cause for stumbling.

Part of living the good life, of living in God's light is loving one another. We will talk more about that in a couple of weeks, but we

need to remember that we are part of each other's faith walk. We are part of a large puzzle. When we try to put together a jigsaw puzzle, it is somewhat distressing to end up with one piece missing. Every piece is important, and we are to help each other along the walk, the faith journey.

In vs 7, we hear, "if we walk in the light as he himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin.

I can sit down right here, or I can stand right here. But our scripture doesn't talk about sitting or standing, but instead, about walking! We are on our spiritual journey when we are walking, moving along, it is a journey. And we need each other.

The good news is that when we have sinned, when we have turned our backs on one another, when we have stopped walking on our spiritual journey, God offers to us Light!

"...the one who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness? (vs 9)

We celebrate on this 2nd Sunday of Easter that Life is Good, Because God is Light!!

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