

SOUL FOOD

DECEMBER 3, 2016

I JOHN 2:1-11 ABIDING IN THE LIGHT

According to Scripture, believers in Jesus have been transferred from the kingdom of darkness into the Kingdom of Light. Apart from this reality we would actually love the darkness because we would not want our deeds exposed. However, now that we abide in Him who is the light we actually do not mind our deeds being seen because they give testimony to the reality of the presence of the Spirit of Christ in our lives. But we still battle with the world, the flesh, and the devil, and so we still need to know just what it means to walk in the light.

As citizens of heaven, we have the privilege and joy of knowing that we have the perfect defense attorney who is Jesus, the perfectly righteous One. This perfect attorney also happens to be our propitiation. This means that He perfectly satisfied the wrath of God that our sins deserve, so that the wrathful anger of God has been removed from dwelling over us. Even though we still sin, in Christ there is no condemnation because we are clothed in Christ's righteous robes. Because He bore our punishment we need not fear God's wrath. We now have a healthy fear of His discipline, which God applies to those whom He loves.

I may picture the father of lies, the evil one himself, falsely accusing me of not being a genuine believer because of my sins. But my Advocate, even Jesus, argues on the basis of His righteousness given to me, and says, "No, He is mine. He has been declared not guilty by the highest court in the universe." What a blessing to be in the Kingdom of Light.

Being in the Kingdom of Light also means that my life is being transformed to more and more reflect the character of Jesus. We are being perfected, which means growing in maturity. What characterizes this maturity? Mature followers of Jesus keep God's Word and walk after the very pattern of Jesus, whose "meat and drink" was to do the will of the Father. Like Jesus, we walk in love for our neighbors, especially those in the household of faith.

Abiding in the light means loving my brothers and sisters. One who hates is one who walks in darkness. This hatred permeates his/her heart and mind so that they actually stumble through life because they are blinded to the realities of the Kingdom of light. We cannot say we love God, whom we cannot see, if we are not loving our brothers whom we do see. **ABIDE IN THE LIGHT!**