International Bible Lesson
International Bible Study Commentary
L.G. Parkhurst, Jr.

How to Find Joy in the Light
1 John 1:1-10

And these things write we unto you, that your joy may be full (1 John 1:4—KJV).

These things we write, so that our joy may be made complete (1 John 1:4—NASB).

We are writing these things so that our joy may be complete (1 John 1:4—NRSV).

John wrote his letters to believers, but he also wanted everyone to find complete joy in Jesus. He wanted everyone to have the everlasting joy that his friends and those in Christian fellowship possessed. John's letter tells us how we can have everlasting joy beginning with and based on fellowship with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ. John wrote that Jesus revealed himself as the life that was from the beginning, the eternal life, and the word of life, even as John began his gospel saying, "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God" (John 1:1). John also briefly stated the message of Jesus Christ that he heard and proclaimed: "God is light and in him there is no darkness at all" (1 John 1:5). Remember how you have felt walking into a totally dark room without light and then switching on the light to see. The light kept you from stumbling into various objects and hurting yourself. The light overcame the darkness in the room, and you walked safely. John's gospel and letters remind us that moral and spiritual darkness exists in the world; however, there is no darkness in God. Therefore, the Father sent Jesus, the light, into the world to keep us from stumbling into situations the darkness hides. From experience we know that in a lighted room and in the world, "The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it" (John 1:5). John's letter teaches us how to walk in the light that pushes back the darkness so we can have joyful fellowship with God and other believers.

Thinking Further

1. What did John declare to his readers?

2. What did John want his readers to have?

3. What was the message that John proclaimed?

4. What did John say is the result of walking in the light?

5. What did John say is the result of confessing our sins?

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