

## First John 1:5 (actually, 1:5-2:2 is a unit)

### 1 John 1:5 – “This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all.”

2532 [e]	1510 [e]	3778 [e]	3588 [e]	31 [e]	3739 [e]	191 [e]	575 [e]	846 [e]	2532 [e]	312 [e]	4771 [e]	3754 [e]	3588 [e]	2316 [e]
Kai	estin	hautē	hē	angelia	hēn	akēkoamen	ap'	autou	kai	anangellomen	hymin	hoti	ho	Theos
5 Καὶ	ἔστιν	αὕτη	ἡ	ἀγγελία	ἣν	ἀκηκόαμεν	ἀπ'	αὐτοῦ	, καὶ	ἀναγγέλλομεν	ὑμῖν	, ὅτι	ὁ	Θεὸς
And	is	this	the	message	that	we have heard	from	him	and	preach	to you	that	-	God
Conj	V-PIA-3S	DPro-NFS	Art-NFS	N-NFS	RelPro-AFS	V-RIA-1P	Prep	PPro-GM3S	Conj	V-PIA-1P	PPro-D2P	Conj	Art-NMS	N-NMS

5457 [e]	1510 [e]	2532 [e]	4653 [e]	1722 [e]	846 [e]	3756 [e]	1510 [e]	3762 [e]
phōs	estin	kai	skotia	en	autō	ouk	estin	oudemia
φῶς	ἔστιν	, καὶ	σκοτία	ἐν	αὐτῷ	, οὐκ	ἔστιν	οὐδεμία
light	is	and	darkness	in	him	not	is	not at all
N-NNS	V-PIA-3S	Conj	N-NFS	Prep	PPro-DM3S	Adv	V-PIA-3S	Adj-NFS

- John switches from Jesus, the Word, being the central topic to God, who is Light.
- The main goal of this epistle is to instruct how a person can have fellowship and joy (completed works of God) with God and Jesus. So, it is necessary to describe and identify God
- “*ap autou*” is “**from him**” referring to a message received from Jesus during his ministry.
- The message was from Jesus about God.
- “declare” or “preach” is from *anangellomen* which could mean simply “to tell”, but since 1:1-4 precedes this mentioning eye witnesses we can conclude that John is simply teaching what Jesus taught him.
- What is “light” referring to? Moral goodness? Revelation/illumination? Holiness or righteousness? Since John is referring to Jesus’ teaching the answer will come from Jesus teaching in the Gospel of John.
  - In the Gospel of John “light” refers to Jesus, the Word – 1:4, 7-8, 9; 2:23-3:21; 8:12;9:5
  - In First John “light” refers to God
  - God is light means that God is the source of life.
  - That there is no “darkness” means that God is the source of the fullness of life with no deficiency and nothing lacking.
  - Other references to “light” in First John refer to Jesus: 2:8,9,11
  - Loving other Christians is part of the fellowship with God and Jesus that exists because of the light (2:8-14). Loving, or being in fellowship, with the true believers is natural for those who are in the light, or for those who are in fellowship with Jesus and God. Likewise, those who are not in the light are in exile and not in fellowship with the brothers, Jesus and God.
  - Those who say they are in the light, but are not in fellowship with Jesus and God are instead in darkness.
  - A person cannot have fellowship with God without knowing the true Jesus, the apostolic message, which is the light.
- John uses “if...then” clauses in 1:6-10 which become timeless and universal principles because they are based on this concept
- “No darkness at all” means there is no shadowy Christianity. Shadowy belief and behavior is a sham Christianity, because in God there is not even a shadow.
- John’s target is those seceding from his teaching. John is separating the seceding “Christians” from those who are remaining true to the apostolic revelation that was taught by Jesus in these verses and on into this letter.