

ARE YOU WALKING IN IT?

Everybody has baggage full of concerns they can't seem to get rid of it. Well, today we are being given a choice. We can either choose to drag it around with us, or we can choose to give it all to Jesus and let Him carry it for us.

About 60 years after Jesus ascended into Heaven Christians faced physical and spiritual abuse. Christians were being taught that Jesus was not a person of historical faith, but just the result of people's hysterical faith. In other words, He supposedly played on people's emotions and thus turned them into religious fanatics. Many people still teach the same false ideas today. In those days such thinking did cause Christians to fall away from the faith, and it is working on many today too, but there is also a trend today among many people who want to hear and know the truth, and they are turning to Jesus for the answers that life does not give them.

When John wrote his letters to believers, his intent was not to promote himself in any way, but to have people see Jesus. In 1 John 1:1, starting at the end of the verse, he is saying, "I am telling you about someone that I have heard, I have seen and I have touched. Don't tell me He doesn't exist or I don't know what I am talking about. I know. I was there." He wanted to make sure they saw Jesus, and if they didn't see Jesus, in verse 2 John said they would miss eternal life, and in verse 4 they would miss real joy.

John says that real joy as a Christian is based on fellowship with God and with other Christians. If you just want the fellowship of God then you will be a person who is looking forward to heaven but has little or no joy on earth. On the other hand if you are fellowshiping with the church but not God, then all of your joy is on earth. It is superficial and has no substance to it. There are a lot of people who are talking about God, but are not walking with Him, and we need to change that today. John says in verse 6, "If we claim to have fellowship with him yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live by the truth."

A preacher friend of mine who was leading singing one day said to his congregation who just finished singing, "Stepping in the Light" and they were getting ready to sing, "Walking with Jesus," "Now that we've stepped in it, let's walk in it." It is time that we stop just stepping in and out of the fellowship of God and the church and start walking with Jesus.

Roy Goodlet is a retired minister and a member of Murphy Church of Christ. Email him @ royfcc@yahoo.com.