

# ***Sunday Sermon Notes***

## ***"The Real Thing"***

**How can I know that my Christian experience is the Real Thing?**

### **Three tests of the real thing:**

- Do I obey God's commands?
- Do I walk as Jesus walked?
- Do I love my brother?

### **The Real Thing has no gray areas.**

- Truth versus a Lie
- Light versus Darkness
- Love versus Hate

### **Jesus' love was the Real Thing.**

- Self-less Love:
  - I seek the good of others.
- Self-sacrificing Love:
  - I don't worry about the cost.
- Unconditional Love:
  - I love without exclusions.

### **Why should I be the Real Thing?**

- Phenomenal rewards
- Unthinkable punishment

### **How do I become the Real Thing?**

- Abide in Him
- Experience the fullness of His love.

### **Am I the Real Thing?**

# ***Digging Deeper***

**Notes for Individual Meditation  
and Small Group Discussion**

### **Reviewing the Sermon:**

Is it possible to look at someone else's life and know if they are the Real Thing? Why are we tempted to try to do that?

In this passage, John speaks in absolutes. Do you believe there is such a thing as a 'white lie' or 'half truth'? Have you ever been in a place that had absolutely no light? Why is the word 'love' often misunderstood?

Give an example of a time that you experienced Jesus' love through another person's actions. How did that experience affect you?

How would you describe heaven? Why do you think people often don't believe that hell exists?

What do you think it means to "abide in God." How would you explain to someone else how to abide in Him?

### ***Bible Study: John 1:6-9***

#### ***Discussion Questions***

*(Remember that not all questions must be used)*

This passage, as was last week's Bible study, is taken from the prologue of John's gospel. This first part serves as a kind of introduction to what follows concerning the life of Jesus. In verses 6-9 the concepts of light and darkness are described.

Share some of the things with your group that you know about John the Baptist. What kind of a person do you think John must have been?

How is John described in this passage? What does it mean that John was a man "sent from God"?

What do you know about John's testimony concerning Jesus as "the light"? Read John 2:19 – 34. What are the things John says about Jesus that help us to understand who Jesus is better?

In the gospel of John, Jesus is light. In 1 John, God is light. What does this tell you about the relationship between God and Jesus?

How does John's witness help all men to believe? What does John want his hearers to believe about Jesus?

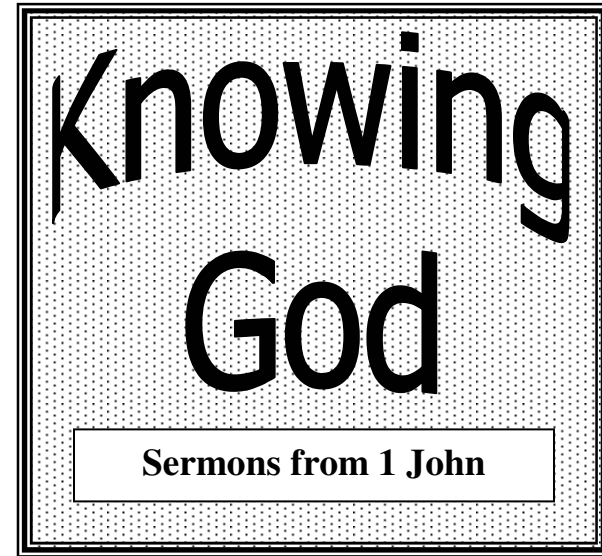
Why do you think John emphasizes that John the Baptist was not the light, but only a witness to the light? How did John serve as a witness to the light?

Verse 9 says three things about the light. He is the "true" light. He gives light to every man. He is coming into the world. Why do you think it was important to John to emphasize these things about Jesus?

How do you think this passage about Jesus being the light and the passage from the sermon about God being light are related to each other?

What impact does the idea of Jesus being light have on our lives? Why is it important for us to know that Jesus is the light?

**Prayer Time:** Share with the group how Jesus as Light helps you to better serve him and live a victorious life. Pray for each other to faithfully "walk in the light."



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***1 John 2:3-11***

***"The Real Thing"***

**Pastor Sherry L. Rogers**  
Middletown  
Church of the Nazarene  
Middletown, Indiana

Master copy of notes and audio version of the sermon at  
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