*“With the Master Before the Mirror of God’s Word”* by Susan Heck

A Ladies Bible Study on First John

Tuesday, October 23rd, 2018

*Susan asks us some heart probing questions in the beginning of this chapter. She writes, “Do you think it is possible for you and me to live a life of sin and still be on our way to heaven? Many Christians unfortunately have bought into a gospel which says, “Come to Christ, believe in Him, but don’t worry about changing your behaviour. You’ve still got fire insurance, and you’re on your way to heaven.” What would Jesus say to this gospel that we hear today? What did Jesus say through the Holy Spirit through the Apostle John?”* (pg.17)

**Summary** of Chapter 2– “Are you walking in the Light” – 1 John 1:5-7 (pg.’s 27-28)

“Here is *“The Character of God”* (v 5): He is light and there is absolutely no darkness in Him!

*“The fact that God is Light gives me great hope because He can show me how to live and how to walk in the light and can lead me in the way I should go.” (pg.20) He shows me how to walk obediently!*

Here is *“The Character of Those Walking in Darkness”* (v 6): They lie and do not practice the truth.

*Susan says, “…that anyone who professes fellowship with God and yet walks in darkness is Gnostic in that they are claiming that believing in Christ does not mean that they have to have a changed life. People can say a lot of religious stuff, but Christ never measures someone’s relationship to Him by what they say but by what they do!”* (Matthew 7:21-27; James 2:14-18) (pg.21)

**“BEWARE OF THE PERSON THAT CAN ARTICULATE A GOOD TESTIMONY AND EVEN SPEAK FLUENTLY REGARDING THE SCRIPTURES BUT DOES NOT LIVE A HOLY LIFE.”** (pg.21)

Here is *“The Character of Those Walking in Light”* (v 7): They have fellowship with one another and the blood of Jesus Christ cleanses them from all sin!

*Susan says that the word “walk” means that we keep on walking. “God expects His children to stay on the road of light. They don’t wander away from the road of light to the road of darkness and go back and forth. They stay on the path of light.”* (pg.25)

My dear friend, there are clear implications for the message Jesus declared to John, i.e., “that God is light and in Him is no darkness at all.” Some of these implications relate to the professing believer’s assurance or false assurance. John mentions two ways to walk---two roads. One is the road that is dark. There is no light to guide those walking on the road of darkness. As Jesus said, that road is wide and broad, but it leads to destruction. Those who lie and do not practice the truth travel that road. The other road John mentions is the road that is light. Jesus calls it the narrow road, the narrow gate, but it leads to life. John says those who walk down this road of light have continued fellowship with other believers and the privilege of having their sins cleansed.

Which road are you traveling down—the dark, broad road which leads to destruction, or the narrow road of light which leads to life eternal? If it’s not the narrow road you are traveling this day, why not make a u-turn away from the broad road to the narrow road which leads to life everlasting?”