

(1) Several approaches to Christian spiritual growth and sanctification were mentioned in the sermon. Which of these (perhaps several) has characterized your understanding of the Christian life? Is there another that wasn't mentioned? Now, contrast your approach (and those noted) with the one put forth by Paul in 2 Corinthians 3.18. What are the primary differences? What is the appeal of 2 Corinthians 3.18 when compared with other methods or schemes for conquering the temptation of sin?

(2) Some today strive to induce the sort of spiritual visionary experience that John had. Is there any indication that John made any such efforts? What connection is there, if any, between John's visionary experience and the fact that it occurred on "the Lord's Day"? Have any in your group ever experienced something like this, or perhaps something less spectacular? Have any had a vision from the Lord that they are convinced was genuine? Describe it. Discuss it. Is there anything in the Bible that would preclude the possibility of such visions in our day? If so, what?

(3) Jesus instructed John to write down what he saw in order that it might be communicated to all Christians in churches everywhere, not only in the first century but in ours as well. So how is it, precisely, that we are able to see or behold or encounter the glory of the Lord through the inspired and inerrant words of Scripture? Describe occasions when you have especially felt this to be the case in your own experience of reading and meditating on Scripture.

(4) What impresses you most about this vision of the risen and glorified Jesus? Which of the many aspects of his appearance is most encouraging to you? Which of them is the most baffling? How might this portrayal of Jesus that John provides serve to help you in your struggle with sin?

(5) I concluded the sermon with this question: "What is it that you need or desire that cannot be found in Jesus? What possible reason could you have for not casting your life upon him?" Let each person answer these questions for themselves.