***JON’S SERMON OUTLINE….***

THE ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

*That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked at and our hands have touched—this we proclaim concerning the Word of life.****2****The life appeared; we have seen it and testify to it, and we proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and has appeared to us.****3****We proclaim to you what we have seen and heard, so that you also may have fellowship with us. And our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ.****4****We write this to make our joy complete.* ***5****This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you: God is light; in him there is no darkness at all.****6****If we claim to have fellowship with him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live out the truth.****7****But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin.* ***8****If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.****9****If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.****10****If we claim we have not sinned, we make him out to be a liar and his word is not in us.* 1 John 1:1-10

Introduction: I’m beginning a new sermon series to kick off the new year that I hope will infuse each of us with a renewed confidence in our relationship with God. The series is entitled, “Blessed Assurance”, and we will be covering the book of 1 John. The Christian life is a life of KNOWING. That’s a key word in 1 John, which begins with the idea of “walking in the light”. In this light, we enjoy the assurance of forgiveness. Today, we’ll see where forgiveness begins and what it brings.

1. FORGIVENESS BEGINS WITH \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (1:1-4):

 a. It comes through a deeply personal Savior.

 b. It results in eternal life.

 c. It leads to joy in this life.

2. FORGIVENESS BRINGS \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (1:5-7):

 a. The light of God will not allow the presence of darkness.

 b. Walking in God’s light is an ongoing reality.

 c. Fellowship and forgiveness go hand in hand.

3. FORGIVENESS BRINGS \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (1:8-10):

 a. You must acknowledge sin.

 b. The truth of God must live in you.

 c. Confession leads to cleansing.

CONCLUSION: Do you believe you’ve been cleansed?

Answers: 1. Jesus 2. Fellowship 3. Cleansing