

I John 2:28-3:1-3
The Hope of God's Children

Introduction:

The Apostle John gives us a stark contrast between the children of God and the children of the devil. John's view is entirely contrary to the liberal view that God is the eternal father of all mankind. "The fatherhood of God and the brotherhood of all man," assumes that all mankind are equally the children of God and therefore brothers and sisters in the divine family. The Scripture makes this abundantly clear that brotherhood is a concept reserved for Christians only, and fatherhood applies only to those who have been reborn in God's family through faith in Jesus Christ. (John 8:42-44)

I. The Christian's Hope in Christ's Return

A. Synoptic Gospels place great emphasis on the Second Coming of Christ – Matt. 24-25; Mark 13; Luke 21)

1. John's Gospel is not without emphasis – John 14:1-6
2. A prominent theme of the New Testament Epistles: (Every book except Galatians and 2&3 John and Philemon)

B. Peter's inquisitiveness about John – John 21:22

1. We shall be "caught up in the clouds" – I Thess. 4:17
2. We presently have a citizenship in heaven – Phil. 3:20
3. We understand it is a "living hope" – I Pet. 1:3
4. We look forward to the "blessed hope" – Tit. 2:13
5. We believe "every eye shall see Him" – Rev. 1:7; 22:20

C. Incentive for righteous Living

1. The believer is assured that he has abided in Christ – v.28
2. The believer is faithful in little things – Luke 16:10; Heb. 3:5,6
3. The believer knows pay day is coming soon – Matt. 25:1-10

D. Escapism

1. Beware of the wrong motivation
2. The proper motivation – "purify ourselves" - Phil. 2:12; I Thess. 5:19; Eph. 4:30; 5:18

II. The Christian's Hope Established by God's Love

A. Love of astonishment – "how great a love" Jer. 31:3; Isa. 61:8

B. God's Love determines two things:

1. What we are in Christ – v.1 (Natural Birth illustrates the New Birth) I Pet. 1:23; Jam. 1:18; John 1:12-13
2. What we shall be in Christ – v.2

Q. What does it mean when John says, "we shall be like Him"?

1. There is something regarding the Second Coming of Christ we do not understand –v.2
2. When Jesus comes back, He shall return as His disciples have Seen Him leave – Acts 1:11
3. We shall bear the image of Christ – Psa. 8:4; Genesis 3; Rom. 8:29; Phil. 3:21; I Cor. 15:50-58

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