

THE BASIS FOR HOPE IN CHRIST **(1 John 3:1-3)**

I. Hope is based on our vocation (vs 1).

- A. Have you ever thought about the love God has shown to man?
 - 1. I doubt anyone has not spent time thinking about it.
 - 2. Do you have words to completely describe that love?
 - 3. I know I don't and I don't believe any human language on earth has the power to adequately describe that love.
- B. My reason for saying that is this first statement by John.
 - 1. John could not put into words the depths of God's love.
 - 2. Behold means to take notice of something.
 - 3. Then he says the manner of love, not using words like greatness or preciousness.
 - 4. Language cannot properly convey the depths of God's love.
- C. That love of God gives us the ability to be called the sons of God.
- D. The word called is in the passive voice and when it is in that voice it suggests a vocation.
 - 1. Webster's defines vocation as a trade.
 - 2. It is our profession to be the sons of God.
 - 3. That is our duty - to work at the profession of being God's children.
- E. If that profession has not been entered or you are no longer working at that profession then you cannot be called a son of God.
- F. Therefore, there is no hope if your vocation is not a child of God.
 - 1. This is the beginning of hope.
 - 2. Without taking the steps to enter into this field or profession then you cannot have biblical hope.
 - 3. Without remaining in this profession there is no hope.
- G. John gives us a warning about entering into this vocation.
 - 1. If we maintain our vocation the world will not know us.
 - 2. Just as it rejects knowledge of God, it will reject Christians.
- H. The word know carries the idea of being acquainted and understanding someone.
 - 1. The world is not acquainted with nor understands God.
 - 2. Therefore, it will not be acquainted with nor understand Christians.
- I. Jesus warned John and the other apostles that since the world hated Him, it would hate the apostles (John 16:3).
- J. John is simply passing that warning on to those he loves.
- K. If we want to have hope in Christ, it begins with entering and maintaining the vocation of being a child of God.

II. Hope is based the Lord's revelation (vs 2).

- A. We are, at this moment, the children of God.
 - 1. John leaves no room for doubt of this fact.
 - 2. Now means at this immediate point in time.
- B. We are God's children even though the world does not recognize us as such.

- C. In our earthly bodies we don't have the appearance of what we are going to look like when Jesus returns.
 - 1. Just because we don't know what our bodies will be like when He returns does not change the fact that we are still the children of God.
 - 2. We still have all the blessings of being a child of God despite our lack of knowledge of what will be.
- D. However, we will change when there is divine revelation.
 - 1. This does not mean written revelation like the Bible because that has ceased.
 - 2. The revelation will take place when the Lord appears.
 - 3. The word appears carries the idea of divine revelation.
- E. When the Lord returns, those who are at the vocation of being God's children will become like the Lord.
- F. Can you imagine what it will be like to appear like Jesus?
 - 1. This should cause our hope to grow and our efforts in the vocation of being children of God to increase.
 - 2. Woods summed up what it means to be like Him with this statement: "It is to share with him the complete approval of our Father and God."
 - 3. Paul mentioned this idea to the Philippians (3:20-21).
- G. Woods told the story of some converts from paganism who were translating this passage into their own language. When they came to this verse they could not begin to comprehend the full depth of meaning and said, "No. It is too much. Let us write that we shall be permitted to kiss His feet."
- H. Friends, when the divine revelation of Jesus takes place we will have the blessing of being like Jesus.
- I. The basis for our hope involved the Lord's revelation.

III. Hope is based on our purification (vs 3).

- A. The hope that should be in us is that we hope to be like Christ when He returns.
- B. Those who have this hope keeps on keeping themselves pure.
 - 1. The word purifieth carries the meaning of being dedicated to service of that which is holy.
 - 2. It was used in the Old Testament to describe what the Levites did in order to be ready to serve.
 - 3. Christians continuously keep themselves pure by going to the blood of the Lamb that removes sin.
 - 4. In other words, we keep walking in the light, obeying God's commandments or abiding in Christ.
 - 5. These are all different ways of saying the same thing.
- C. This purification is an ongoing process.
 - 1. It is not a one time act with continual consequences.
 - 2. It is a continual act because the need for the cleansing blood of Jesus is continual.

D. We can maintain our hope if we maintain our purity.