

Children of God and the Hope (Part 2)

1 John 2:28-3:3

II. Hope

Introduction

We live in a very materialistic society where we try to cling to this life with a vengeance—we try to pack our life with all the good experiences, benefits, and goods that the life has to offer. As a result, Christians may fall prey to false teachings of the best life now. Jesus said that His kingdom is not of this world—the physical world. If we are of Christ—if we are children of God—then our focus is not of this world but the heavenly kingdom, and we bow to Him who reigns forever and ever.

Last week we talked about being children of God. What does it mean to be children of God? First, we are born of God—taking on His nature: righteousness, holiness, purity, love, etc. We are called to be righteous and pure just as Christ Jesus our Lord is both righteous and pure. As children of God, we are being conformed to the image of His Son, Jesus Christ. God has also given us an inheritance—eternal life and more! John says that one day we will be like Him at His appearing (2nd coming). Our bodies will be glorified and fashioned like Christ's glorified body. It is with this hope—that we shall be as He is—we purify ourselves.

What is hope? What does the Bible teach about hope? And how is this related to His appearing and us being children of God? These are the questions we hope to answer today.

- Theology of hope

Note: Hope is part of the 3 elements that make up the core of our Christian existence: faith, hope, and love (**1 Cor 13:13**). Hope is the holding on to the true and full benefit of salvation that is promised to us by God. Eternal glory—the goal of hope—is the reason for God's saving purpose and plan. In other words, death from this life is not the end for us, but rather a loosing from this mortal tent into eternal glory where we will be with Him forever.

- Hope is fixed on God

Ps 43:5 *Why are you cast down, O my soul? And why are you disquieted within me? Hope in God; for I shall yet praise Him, The help of my countenance and my God.*

Heb 6:19-20 *This hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast, and which enters the Presence behind the veil, (20) where the forerunner has entered for us, even Jesus, having become High Priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek.*

Titus 1:2 *in hope of eternal life which God, who cannot lie, promised before time began,*

- Hope is a gift from God

2 Thess 2:16-17 *Now may our Lord Jesus Christ Himself, and our God and Father, who has loved us and given us everlasting consolation and good hope by grace, (17) comfort your hearts and establish you in every good word and work.*

- Hope is revealed in Scripture

Rom 15:14 *Now I myself am confident concerning you, my brethren, that you also are full of goodness, filled with all knowledge, able also to admonish one another.*

- Hope is secured by the resurrection of Jesus Christ

1 Peter 1:3 *Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.*

John 14:19b *Because I live, you will live also.*

1 Cor 15:19 *If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men the most pitiable.*

- Hope is confirmed by the Holy Spirit

Rom 15:13 *Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.*

Eph 1:13-14 *In Him you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise, (14) who is the guarantee of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, to the praise of His glory.*

Note: This is the redemptive history—The Father gives us hope and the Son secures the hope and the Holy Spirit confirms the hope.

- Hope defends against Satan's attacks

1 Thess 5:8 *But let us who are of the day be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love, and as a helmet the hope of salvation.*

Ephesians 6:12-13 *For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. (13) Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.*

Note: Satan tries to cast doubt on our salvation by accusing us continually before the Lord. The hope that He gives to us as a gift that is revealed in Scripture and secured by Jesus' resurrection and confirmed by the Holy Spirit strengthens us against Satan's attack.

- Hope is confirmed through trial

Heb 11:13-16 *These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off were assured of them, embraced them and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth. (14) For those who say such things declare plainly that they seek a homeland. (15) And truly if they had called to mind that country from which they had come out, they would have had opportunity to return. (16) But now they desire a better, that is, a heavenly country. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for He has prepared a city for them.*

- Hope is the source of the believer's joy

Psalms 146:5 *Happy is he who has the God of Jacob for his help, Whose hope is in the Lord his God,*

- Hope removes fear from death

1 Cor 15:54-57 *So when this corruptible has put on incorruption, and this mortal has put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written: "Death is swallowed up in victory." (55) "O Death, where is your sting? O Hades, where is your victory?" (56) The sting of death is sin, and the strength of sin is the law. (57) But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.*

Note: This is not fear of dying—we do not like pain or suffering. This is talking about fear of eternal separation... that death is removed from us.

Transition: All the glorious promises from God will be consummated in the return of Jesus! (Titus 2:13)

- 2nd Coming of Christ

Note: This is a visible return of Christ as written in **Revelation (19:11-16)**. For that two groups that will face His coming, there will either shame at this coming or joy everlasting.

Revelation 19:11-16 Now I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse. And He who sat on him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and makes war. (12) His eyes were like a flame of fire, and on His head were many crowns. He had a name written that no one knew except Himself. (13) He was clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called The Word of God. (14) And the armies in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, followed Him on white horses. (15) Now out of His mouth goes a sharp sword, that with it He should strike the nations. And He Himself will rule them with a rod of iron. He Himself treads the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. (16) And He has on His robe and on His thigh a name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS.

- For unbelievers

- Be ashamed at His appearing

1 John 2:28 And now, little children, abide in Him, that when He appears, we may have confidence and not be ashamed before Him at His coming.

Rev 6:15-17 And the kings of the earth, the great men, the rich men, the commanders, the mighty men, every slave and every free man, hid themselves in the caves and in the rocks of the mountains, (16) and said to the mountains and rocks, "Fall on us and hide us from the face of Him who sits on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb! (17) For the great day of His wrath has come, and who is able to stand?"

- Face judgment

John 3:18 He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.

5:22, 29 For the Father judges no one, but has committed all judgment to the Son, (29) and come forth--those who have done good, to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil, to the resurrection of condemnation.

- For believers

- Be with the Lord always

1 Thess 4:17-18 Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord. (18) Therefore comfort one another with these words.

- Our faith becomes sight

2 Cor 5:7 For we walk by faith, not by sight.

Conclusion

John says that those with this hope in Him and His appearing, this will purify them. Genuine hope purifies every believer. Note that John does not say this as a wish (may he purify himself), a possibility (he may purify himself), or a command (he ought to purify himself). He says this as a fact of every children of God. Because we are meeting Him, because He is coming, this hope spurs us to live holy. This hope spurs us to good works. As children of God we have this hope—the blessed hope that we will do the things that are pleasing to Him.