

30 - 1 John 3:2 - 2018-12-09

1 John 3:2 Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is.

Call to Worship: Revelation 5:9

Scripture Reading: Daniel 12:1-13

Sermon: "We Shall Be Like Him" 1 John 3:2

Benediction: 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17

INTRODUCTION

Knowing, as we do, that we who are in Christ are born of God, we can look and see what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called His children!

Contemplating that further, that we are the children of God, we can understand that the painful experience we have of rejection by the world comes from the fact that the world does not know God, so it does not know us, His children, either.

In the face of alienation from the world in which we live, our Lord Jesus comforts us and assures us of our place as the children of God even now, and reminds us of our hope in what we shall become when He comes again.

TEXT

1 John 3:2 Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is.

BODY

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- I. Receive an Expression of Love: Beloved
 - A. By
 1. God: Father, Son, and Spirit
 2. John
 - a) not by personal knowledge
 - b) but because we are the children of God
 - B. APPLICATION: See that we are to love the children of God
 1. not because they are so great
 2. but because they are His children
 3. stir up that love; fan it into flame

- II. Be Assured that Your Privileged Place As Children of God Is a Present Reality
 - A. We have reason not to feel it
 1. our own sinfulness
 - a) your own, in your flesh
 - b) the sinfulness of even the Christians around you in the church
 2. our infirmity
 - a) e.g. Rachel
 3. the world's treatment of us
 - B. Yet we are assured of it: "now we are children of God"
 1. not just that we shall be in the future
 2. but we are already now

III. Accept What the Lord Has Not Yet Finished in Us

- A. It does not yet appear; it has not yet been made manifest; it has not yet been revealed
- B. Has not told us all we would like to know about our eternal state
 - 1. surely there are a hundred or a thousand things about how He will bless us in eternity, that we don't yet know about
 - 2. but I don't think that's what the apostle is getting at here
- C. Has not yet worked all in us
 - 1. He has not yet wiped every tear from our eyes
 - 2. neither married nor given in marriage
 - a) nor missing what we had
 - b) nor pining for what we have not had
 - c) nor striving with what we do have, sinner with sinner
 - 3. still sinful
 - 4. still corruptible
 - 5. still natural
 - 6. still weak
 - 7. still mortal
 - a) e.g. Rachel
 - b) e.g. Susan's dad
- D. That it does not yet appear what we shall be is by God's perfect plan

IV. While We Wait for the Lord to Complete the Good Work He Began in Us, Enjoy the Hope of What It Will Be Like When He Does

- A. Understand that at the resurrection, when the Lord comes, we shall be changed
 - 1. 1 Corinthians 15:51-52 Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed-- (52) in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.
 - 2. I'll come back to that passage at the end of this message
- B. We shall be like Him
 - 1. Philippians 3:20-21 For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, (21) who will transform our lowly body that it may be conformed to His glorious body, according to the working by which He is able even to subdue all things to Himself.
 - 2. having no sin in us
 - 3. incorruptible
 - 4. spiritual instead of natural
 - 5. powerful instead of weak
 - 6. immortal
 - a) death: no sting
 - b) grave: no victory
- C. We shall see Him as He is
 - 1. part of the difficulty of living in this last time is that we cannot see God revealed in our Lord Jesus Christ; we are absent from Him, so we walk by faith, not by sight; but when He appears, it will be our joy to see Him as He is
 - 2. Matthew 5:8 Blessed are the pure in heart, For they shall see God.
 - 3. 1 Corinthians 13:12 For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part, but then I shall know just as I also am known.
 - 4. JFB: not in His innermost Godhead, but as manifested in Christ...Our spiritual bodies will appreciate and recognize spiritual beings hereafter, as our natural bodies do natural objects.
 - 5. John 17:1-26

CONCLUSION

In the face of alienation from the world in which we live, our Lord Jesus comforts us and assures us of our place as the children of God even now, and reminds us of our hope in what we shall become when He comes again.

1 Corinthians 15:35-58

Prelude Psalm 88, Trinity 761

I Will Sing of My Redeemer, Trinity 681

Holy, Holy, Holy, Trinity 87

Be Thou My Vision, Grace 16

Day By Day, Grace 37