

We will be like Him when we see Him as He is!

Intro: You are the excellent ones in whom is all my delight! I am going to speak this morning about how awesome you are and how you will become more awesome. This is of course not because of you, but because of Jesus Christ in whom you have believed. But it is true. And I am going to talk about the role of the intellect in your sanctification, in your becoming more holy. By intellect, I don't mean genius, or special smartness, or intellectualism, or high-minded arrogance, I mean the mind, thinking. So when I say intellect, I mean mind. John asks you to use your mind. He says, "Behold", and he says that thinking about what you will be causes you to purify yourself. So we are going to see the importance John places on the intellect, John's point is this *Cultivate a purifying hope by beholding God's great love to you in making you his children destined to be conformed to Christ.*

1. God has greatly loved you in making you his child 1

- God loves you by giving you the highest good – himself and part of this is making you able to receive his glory without dying **Rev 22:3-5, Exo 33:20**
- God loves you by giving you the most intimate relationships with him – namely children **John 15:15**
- Behold! And enjoy this to the full! Make use of it and don't neglect it, live in it. Abba Father

2. You are not a child in name only, but are a new creation born of God 1

- Identity in Christ is not just positive thinking and self-esteem "we ARE"
- You are a child of God now which means you ARE something new and glorious **2Cor 5:17, 1Cor 6:17**
- God *wants* you to think about what you are now and what you will become
- This thinking/ beholding is done by the mind AND THAT'S OK! You don't have to leave your house to do it, but it is as or more important than feeding the poor. [Anti-intellect-ism is BAD!]

3. Your future glorification as a child of God is not yet fully revealed 2

- "What we shall be" – why are you even talking about this John? (please share John's interests)
- The Bible does speak about what we will be, but not fully **1Cor 15:49-53**
- This is exceedingly desirable – God made you to want it! Seeing, Being, Doing (desire all not some)

4. But what is revealed is that you will be like the Father because we will see him 2

- Like the Father or the Son? Yes! **John 14:7-10**
- This has been revealed, we may therefore use inference –whatever he is like, yet (not absolutely alike) Scripture with Scripture **Is 43:10**
- We will see him as he is – Wow! I can't even imagine.
- Seeing is becoming **2Cor 3:12-18** Use this! Use this! Use this! [Anti-intellect-ism is BAD!]

5. Hoping in your future glorification changes you now 3

- You must *have* this hope in order for it to purify you
- You must *think* about these things in order to *have* this hope – you cannot bypass the intellect
- Beholding, Meditating, Thinking, Studying is as or more important than many good works because it is the proper cause of those good works : hope → purifies himself
- Abuse? It will even backfire on the lazy! Heavenly-mindedness leads to earthly good.

6. Cultivate this hope in your future glorification

- Holiness is the appropriate behavior in the presence of this Great God, and is a love for God
- It will therefore long for more of him, and seek for more holiness which is love to him, and it is self-perpetuating: I love him and I long to love him yet more
- Hope is for something as yet unrealized **Rom 8:23-25**, and is fed by meditation –out of sight, out of mind – out of mind, out of hope – out of hope, no sanctification
- Determine to use your mind to "Behold", IT'S OK TO USE YOUR MIND, consider what you will be, what you will see: long for it, cultivate a desire and interest in the same things John is interested in, because God is interested in them [Anti-intellect-ism is BAD!]

Conclusion: Do not waste your life. You have been given the highest possible blessing, and the greatest possible future. The Rich and Famous have nothing but piles of earthly dirt; you have everlasting glory, honor, and immortality before you. You will be made into glorious and spotless beings, shining as the sun in the kingdom of your Father. You will reign with Christ forever, even forever and ever. You will behold God face to face, and live with him forever. You cannot see it now with your physical eyes, but you can see it with the eyes of your mind, the eyes of faith, and your hope in this, which the world mocks, will transform you in this life more and more into his image. Fix your mind, therefore on things above, and not on things on the earth, set your affections on things above where Christ is seated at the right hand of God, and be transformed now into his glorious image day by day. *Cultivate a purifying hope by beholding God's great love to you in making you his children destined to be conformed to Christ.*