

~ 1 John ~

Lesson 25- The Purifying Hope

We are continuing our study of 1 John and we are in the fourth lesson on the section spanning verses **2:28 – 3:3**.

Everything John mentions in this section is leading us to the hope of eternal life with eternal glory. That one day soon we will be with Him in glory. This ought to be the hope of every Christian. Not what this life can give me now, but the hope of everlasting life with Jesus Christ as His Bride. And this life is in His Son, 1 John 5:11. This is the premise of the entire letter of First John, Eternal Life, 1 John 1:1-2; 2:17; 2:25; 5:11-13. When you have an eternal life mindset, there is nothing in this life you can't overcome. This is what it means to be an overcomer, because the things we all go through in this life, as hard as they may seem, 3 billion years from now they will not even matter because we will be with our Savior. I'm not saying we don't care about this life, because this life is absolutely important, because it is what we do in this life that determines what we will be doing in 3 billion years, but our focus must remain on Him. Our focus is Jesus Christ because He is our life. He is the eternal life that has been manifested to us so that we can share in this everlasting life with Him.

Today we are looking at the last part of this section, specifically verses 2-3, and in these last two verses of this section, John circles back around speaking of the appearing of Jesus Christ and our hope in Him unto everlasting life. And John says this Hope in Jesus is a purifying Hope, a Hope that Sanctifies us unto Holiness. Notice that John says, "this Hope". He is speaking of a specific Hope, a purifying Hope that is only found in Jesus.

What is Hope? Worldly hope and Biblical Hope are very different. Hope is not "wishful thinking" as the world defines hope; "I hope I win the lottery", "I hope I get this job", "I hope this works out for me". That is worldly hope based on feeling and emotion. Biblical Hope is confident expectation, an assurance of our future expectation and anticipation of the manifestation of the promises of God that He has given to us through His Word. It is a hope rooted and established in Faith.

What is the difference between Faith and Hope? Faith is the foundation of Hope. Faith is our complete trust and confidence in Jesus that comes out from the Word of God, Romans 10:17. Faith is how we apprehend God's grace. And Hope is our future expectation and anticipation that is rooted in and stood upon this Faith, Hebrews 11:1- Faith is the substance, ὑπόστασις, the sure footing, the foundation, of that which is hoped for. Hope is an assurance of something yet future, based on the confidence of God's Word, **Romans 8:24-25**. This hope is rooted in and stands on our faith in Jesus and His Word. Hebrews 6:19- This *hope* we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast... Hope is like a tethered line that keeps us fixed on Jesus so we aren't tossed to and fro with the waves of deception, Eph 4:14.

This is the Hope of Eternal Life with Jesus. Peter calls it our Living Hope, **1 Peter 1:3-9**. The Salvation of our soul is Sanctification and notice Peter says we are receiving this, presently and continually receiving this unto ourselves. How? Look at **verse 13**... we are resting our Hope fully upon the Grace, upon the Salvation that will be brought to us when Jesus Christ appears to catch us away. Now glance down to **verse 22**... Since we have purified, ἀγνίζω (sanctified, same word as in 1 John 3:3), our souls in obeying the Truth. We are sanctified by the Truth, John 17:17- "Sanctify them by Your Truth, Your Word is Truth." So when we obey the Truth, we are resting our Hope fully on His grace, we rest our Hope on the Salvation that will be revealed to us at the appearing of Jesus Christ, and our soul is being Sanctified.

There is a revealing of His Salvation to us at His appearing, and this is what John is speaking of in 3:2-3...

^{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.

³ And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.

^{3:2} ἀγαπητοί, νῦν τέκνα Θεοῦ ἐσμεν, καὶ οὐπω ἐφανερώθη τί ἐσόμεθα· οἶδαμεν δὲ ὅτι ἐὰν φανερωθῆ, ὅμοιοι αὐτῷ ἐσόμεθα, ὅτι ὁψόμεθα αὐτὸν καθὼς ἐστι.

³ καὶ πᾶς ὁ ἔχων τὴν ἐλπίδα ταύτην ἐπ' αὐτῷ, ἀγνίζει ἑαυτὸν, καθὼς ἐκεῖνος ἀγνός ἐστι.

Notice the first phrase of verse 2, **Beloved**, (those who are loved by God), **NOW, we are children of God**. Why does John say, NOW? Because this is who we are NOW, in this life. We don't have to wait. If you have accepted Jesus, you are a child of God right NOW, **1 John 4:17**. We have the Spirit of God living in us NOW, He is abiding in us NOW. **1 John 4:4**. Notice, "you ARE of God." not that you will be of God, but that right NOW you ARE of God, and you ARE a child of God. That's important to know, because even though it hasn't been fully revealed what it means to be a child of God, we can be assured that NOW we are children of God and there is coming a day soon when it will be revealed who we really are.

Continue in verse 2... *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.*

In this age, we are seeing through a mirror darkly and we can't quite make everything out clearly, 1 Corinthians 13:12- *For now we see in a mirror, dimly*, (it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, 1 Jn 3:2) *but then* ...when that which is perfect has come, v. 10, at that time we will see Him)... *face to face. Now I know in part, but then I shall know just as I also am known*. Then, at that time... This is our Hope. It is at this point that we will fully see who we are and fully know what it means to be a child of God.

When will this happen? John is clear that this will happen when He is revealed at His appearing, at His coming, when He comes back for His Bride. This is the rapture, *harpazo, ἀρπάζω*, when He catches the faithful Christians away to be with Him forever, 1 Thess 4:15-17. And John says in 3:2... *we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is*. When Jesus is revealed, when He appears, we will be like Him because when He comes to catch us away, we will be transformed into our glorified bodies and we will be like Him, **Romans 8:23, 29, Philippians 3:20-21**; 1 Corinthians 15:49-54. Notice the common phrase, "eagerly waiting", we are eagerly waiting for His return because with His return comes our complete Salvation, our complete redemption is in Him so we can live forever with Him.

This is the hope, it is the confident expectation of knowing that He will return soon. And it is in this hope that we eagerly wait for His appearing, **Hebrews 9:28**. When you are eagerly waiting for someone, they never leave your thoughts. Everything you do, you do in anticipation of their return. That's how Jesus wants us to live this life. Eagerly waiting for Him to live eternally with Him.

And as we live in eager expectation of the hope of His return and everlasting life in Him, it will change the way we live this life. Look at verse 3...

^{3:3} And everyone who ⁱhas ⁱⁱthis hope ⁱⁱⁱin Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.

^{3:3} και πᾶς ὁ ἔχων τὴν ἐλπίδα ταύτην ἐπ' αὐτῷ, ἀγνίζει ἑαυτὸν, καθὼς ἐκεῖνος ἀγνός ἐστι.

What John is simply saying in verse 3 is this...

1 John 3:3, "**and everyone who continues having this hope upon Him** (this confident expectation upon Him, this future expectation and anticipation of eternal life with Him), **purifies himself, just as He is pure.**"

"purifies" is the word, *ἀγνίζω*, it is the verb form of Sanctification, *hagiasmos, ἁγιασμός*. This is a sanctifying Hope. Sanctification, *hagiasmos, ἁγιασμός*, is the process of "being saved". Hebrews 10:14- For by one offering He has perfected forever those who are being Sanctified. Salvation is three steps, Justification, Sanctification and Glorification. We are saved, we are being saved, and we will be saved. Sanctification is the decrease of sin and the increase of righteousness; a separation from sin that manifests itself in increased holiness in your life. This isn't something we can do ourselves. This isn't earning Sanctification. We can't earn any part of our Salvation, but rather it is submitting your life to Jesus and allowing His Righteousness to flow through you, **Hebrews 2:10-11**. It is the process of "being sanctified" that bring us into Fellowship and Eternal Glory.

Therefore, John writes in 3:3 “and everyone who continues having this hope upon Him, purifies (sanctifies) himself, just as He is pure.”

“purifies” is in the present tense, *ἀγνίζει*, - meaning it is a continual sanctifying, a continual cleansing of the soul. Not that we are sanctifying ourselves, but we are surrendering our life to Him. That is our part in Sanctification, and as we continually abide in Him and as we continually place our Hope upon Him, this Hope is working in us Sanctification. There is a sanctifying effect on our soul as we humble ourselves to His will and allow His Righteousness to flow out through us. This is practicing Righteousness. This is the Hope that purifies. And as we live this life in earnest expectation for Him, it will change our behavior because we have Christ in us, and He is flowing out through us, **Colossians 1:3-5; 21-23; 2:4-10; 3:1-4, 24.**

This reward of inheritance is the salvation that Peter spoke of in 1 Peter 1:5. This is the final culmination of our Salvation when He appears, Ephesians 1:14, 18; Acts 20:32; Heb 9:15. And this Salvation starts now, in this life. This is the walk of Christianity. And it has to start now, because if we don't, then when He does appear, we won't be confident and we will be shamed away from Him at His coming, 1 John 2:28.

That brings us to the final phrase in verse 3... “and everyone who continues having this hope upon Him, purifies himself, just as He is pure”,

“just as He is pure”, *καθὼς ἐκεῖνος ἄγνός ἐστι*. The Greek literally says, “just as this One *ἐκεῖνος* is pure.” John makes it very clear he is speaking of Jesus Christ saying, “just as this One is pure”. This One who is our Savior; this One who is Pure and Righteous, and Holy, we will be like Him because we will be one with Him. What an amazing promise!

How can we possibly be pure, just as He is pure? It is because we will be glorified in Him. Because it is His glory in us that makes us pure. At His appearing we will become one with Him. We will pass thru the Bema and all the old fleshy life will burn away and we will be completely glorified in Him. He will shine out through us and His glory will be revealed in and through us because we will be one with Him.

And this process starts now, in this life. We are growing into Christlikeness now, being transformed into the same image of glory, **2 Corinthians 3:18**. The process of Sanctification leading unto Glorification starts now, in this life. And it starts with giving Him our heart. That's all He wants. He wants us committed to Him. He wants us abiding in Him, 2:28; presenting our members as slaves and instruments of Righteousness so He can work through us, Romans 6:19. He wants us setting our Hope on Him, eagerly waiting His return. And if we will continue in the faith, grounded and steadfast and not be moved away from the Hope of the Glory of the gospel, when He appears, we will have confidence and not be shamed away from Him at His coming. Jesus will adorn us as His Bride, we will be one with Him in eternal life with eternal glory, having been made perfectly Righteous, perfectly Sanctified, and perfectly Glorified... FOREVER.

Footnotes to verse 3:3~

ⁱ “has”, *ἔχων*, is a participle in the present tense that could be translated, “and everyone who continues having this hope...” This hope is continual. It is as Peter says, “a living hope”, it is a Hope that is alive and active in our lives. We have faith in Jesus, and we continually abide in Him, His Word continually abides in us, and we continually hope in Him. It is a daily walk of life, eagerly waiting and yearning for our Savior.

ⁱⁱ “this hope”, *τὴν ἐλπίδα ταύτην*, John isn't just referring to a general hope. He says “this hope”. This is the hope of being glorified, seeing Him just as He is, and being like Jesus. This is when we will finally see Him face to face and live eternally with Him. It is this specific hope John is referring to.

ⁱⁱⁱ “in Him”, *ἐπ' αὐτῷ*, *ἐπί*, *ἐπί*, is a preposition meaning “upon” instead of “in Him”, it is a hope “upon Him”. A hope that is an anchor for our soul, both sure and steadfast, Hebrews 6:19.