

1 John 3:1-3 (ESV)

<sup>1</sup> See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are. The reason why the world does not know us is that it did not know him. <sup>2</sup> Beloved, we are

God’s children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is. <sup>3</sup> And everyone who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure.

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I greet you with, grace, mercy and peace from God our Father and Jesus Christ our Risen Lord and the Holy Spirit who lives within us as believers, empowering us.

Today we observe All Saints Day. That is November 1<sup>st</sup> each year, and we proclaim who we are in Christ, saints and our mission. The term saint is another name for a believer, a person redeemed by Jesus, given eternal life, granted pardon from sin, made a new creation, a future in paradise. As believers, the Holy Spirit has given us the truth about God, about us, and about life. That truth is from the word of God. In our lesson from 1<sup>st</sup> John, it is John who reminds us about who we are, what is happening next, and how that changes our everyday life. Does the Bible provide all the specifics about everything? No, but what you need. Some of answers we desire are to wait until heaven. Daniel a prophet from the Old Testament had questions. Daniel records a visit from Michael the arch angel as well as two others that told him of many things, in Daniel chapter 12. Daniel had questions, and this is what he said and the answer, **“I heard, but I did not understand. Then I said, “O my lord, what shall be the outcome of these things?””** <sup>9</sup> **He said, “Go your way, Daniel, for the words are shut up and sealed until the time of the end.** (Daniel 12:7-9 ESV) Daniel was troubled. Daniel had a lot on his mind. He wondered what the future was to bring and how all the things that he was told would work out. He had more on his mind than God wished to reveal. What he was given was all that he needed. That is for us as well. Peter says, **“His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us to his own glory and excellence,** (2 Peter 1:3 ESV) We have what we need for life and godliness. John in our lesson reminds us, who we are, what is happening next and what we will be like, and finally our calling right now that effects how we live. May we hear and receive!

*Who we are! – We are God’s Children*

John tells us, **“Beloved, we are God’s children...”** The word beloved, is a dear term, that means those loved by God. The God who created the universe and holds it together, loves you. (Col 1:16-17) That changes how we should be viewing every aspect of our life. How can you help but be thankful, praising God

for who He is and how he cares for you. Romans, 5 it says, **“<sup>8</sup> But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”** (Romans 5:8 NKJV) Jesus fully man and without sin, thus qualified to take our place, and being God able to suffer the judgment of sin, does for us, and opens the door for forgiveness and new life to all who receive His gift. In verse 12, of John 1, it says, **<sup>12</sup> But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God,** (John 1:12 ESV) The gift of salvation is for anyone who receives, who believes, trusting in Christ to save. This world does not understand this or us. Look what John tells us in our lesson, **The reason why the world does not know us is that it did not know him.** (1 John 3:1b ESV) Knowing Jesus is knowing Him personally, we have a saving relationship with Him, He is Lord to us. 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 12 says, **<sup>12</sup> ...no one can say “Jesus is Lord” except in the Holy Spirit.** (1 Corinthians 12:3b ESV) The Holy Spirit brought you to faith, and sustains and strengthens your faith by the word. (Romans 10:17) That changes everything. You have a new outlook on life. You belong to Jesus. Live in the joy of Jesus, resting in Him, He is with you always, He is in charge and all is working by His will. (Phil 4:4-8, Matt 28:18-20, Hebrews 13:5)

*What is next and what will we be like? – When He appears we shall be like Him*

Our lesson also tells us what is next, what we are waiting for. John says, **what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is.** (1 John 3:2b ESV) What will be... the glory that is to follow, our perfection when we leave this life for the next. Jesus is coming for us to take us there. (John 14:1-2) That moment will either be at our physical death or when He comes again. (1 Thes 4:15-18) Jesus is coming back, He promised and He keeps His promises. Peter wrote about Jesus coming, and just like today there were scoffers back that were ridiculing the fact of His return, as Peter writes, **<sup>4</sup> They will say, “Where is the promise of his coming? For ever since the fathers fell asleep, all things are continuing as they were from the beginning of creation.”<sup>5</sup> For they deliberately overlook this fact, that the heavens existed long ago, and the earth was formed out of water and through water by the word of God,<sup>6</sup> and that by means of these the world that then existed was deluged with water and perished.<sup>7</sup> But by the same word the heavens and earth that now exist are stored up for fire, being kept until the day of judgment and destruction of the ungodly.** (2 Peter 3:4-7 ESV) Peter points to creation, points to the flood, and points to the coming fire that brings destruction to all we see, there is a new world that is coming. How does that effect us? Look at the main point of our lesson.

*Our Calling – And everyone who thus hopes in Him purifies himself as He is pure.*

John in the last verse says, **And everyone who thus hopes in Him purifies himself as He is pure.”** (1 John 1:3 ESV) We are living with the sure hope that the God who loves us, Jesus, is coming back to receive

us and usher in the new kingdom. How does that change how we live? We are to live in holiness. We are not perfect, the glory of perfection waits till heaven, but through repentance, we desire God's help to turn from sin and live apart from the sins that are so evident in our world, resisting temptation. Peter writes about this, saying in chapter 3 of 2<sup>nd</sup> Peter, **But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a roar, and the heavenly bodies will be burned up and dissolved, and the earth and the works that are done on it will be exposed.** <sup>11</sup> **Since all these things are thus to be dissolved, what sort of people ought you to be in lives of holiness and godliness,** <sup>12</sup> **waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set on fire and dissolved, and the heavenly bodies will melt as they burn!** <sup>13</sup> **But according to his promise we are waiting for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.** (2 Peter 3:11-13 ESV) That righteousness begins now, now as you receive Christ's righteousness in salvation, and now in His power in our Christian lives, we live in holiness. John tells us in our lesson, <sup>2</sup> **... we know that when he appears we shall be like him...** (1 John 3:2 ESV) Paul wrote of the same as well, in Philippians, chapter 3, he says, <sup>18</sup> **For many, of whom I have often told you and now tell you even with tears, walk as enemies of the cross of Christ.** <sup>19</sup> **Their end is destruction, their god is their belly, and they glory in their shame, with minds set on earthly things.** <sup>20</sup> **But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ,** <sup>21</sup> **who will transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body, by the power that enables him even to subject all things to himself.** (Philippians 3:18-21 ESV) We belong to Jesus and will be like Him in the glory that is to be revealed. So right now we live for Him. How we live testifies to the world that our God is real and that we truly believe. It is Jesus who says, <sup>46</sup> **“Why do you call me ‘Lord, Lord,’ and not do what I tell you?** (Luke 6:46 ESV) We need to be about holy living, resisting temptations, live in God's will Paul wrote the same to Titus, saying, <sup>11</sup> **For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people,** <sup>12</sup> **training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age,** <sup>13</sup> **waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ,** <sup>14</sup> **who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works.** (Titus 2:11-14 ESV) The Lord Jesus loves you, through the faith he granted you are a child of God, we wait for His return either at our death or when He returns, and right now, having this sure hope, we pray, we long for Him, and live in the holiness that He brings through the power of His word, as we testify to a lost and hurting world, as we live in the joy Jesus brings.

In His name we pray, AMEN. May the peace of God that passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus. AMEN.