



SUNDAY MORNING

AT BETHANY BAPTIST CHURCH

Title: Authentic Hope

Passage: 1 John 3:1-9

Speaker: Associate Pastor David Wood

Introduction: Our passage today starts out reminding us the Jesus Christ is coming back!

"Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ;" (Titus 2:13)

There are likely many people here that would be thrilled if Christ showed up today! You have been walking with the Lord, you have been living with eternity in mind and anticipating His arrival! You've been watching the clock. However, it is very likely as well that there are some in this room that are not ready. Maybe you're saved but you've been struggling with faithfulness and sin. Maybe you've never accepted Christ as your Savior... not only are you not looking forward to it, you aren't even sure if you believe it He's coming back. In our text, we see some things that John understood that gave him incredible confidence and we can have that same confidence today.

I. We Are Loved By the Father (Verses 1-3)

"For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord." (Romans 8:38-39)

"For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin." (Hebrews 4:15)



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The depth of God's love for you is endless. He will stop at nothing to show you His love.

A. He Offers an Elevated Position

"Adoption is such a beautiful picture of what God has done for us. He loved us and made us His own. We love our children the same—whether adopted or biological. They are our kids." - Willie Robertson

"And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together." (Romans 8:17)

The moment that you accept Christ, is the moment you are made part of the family of God!

B. He Promises a Bright Future

"These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world." (John 16:33)

This world can beat us up sometimes. It's difficult, challenging and many days we may not feel like we have an elevated position

The things that God has in store for you haven't even entered your mind!

C. He Gives Us an Honorable Purpose

"Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works" (Titus 2:14)

It would do us some good to just stop and consider all that God has done for us.

The Lord is coming back and the signs of the times are all around. What if He came today? Would He find you living in light



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of this blessed hope and watching with anticipation or would you want to hide from Him?

II. We Are Freed By the Son (Verses 4-5)

A. Sin Brings Bondage

"Sin makes so many promises that it cannot keep." - Anonymous

Our sin has separated us from God. We cannot change the past and the amount of debt is too high for us to pay.

"For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;" (Romans 3:23)

"If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us." (1 John 1:8)

B. Jesus Brings Deliverance

He made a way on the cross and through His resurrection for us to be saved.

"That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation." (Romans 10:9-10)

III. We Are Changed by the Spirit (Verses 6-9)

"If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us." (1 John 1:8)

This passage doesn't teach sinless perfection but emphasizes that true believers, though not without sin, won't be marked by ongoing, willful sin without conviction or change. The Greek verbs imply continuous action, showing that salvation brings a transformed life with new desires and direction.

A. Are you walking with the Lord?



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- B. Is there evidence of salvation?
- C. Is God's Spirit working in you?

"The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God:" (Romans 8:16)

Conclusion: Are you among the many Christians that know that they're saved but they haven't really been walking with the Lord? You feel the Holy Spirit working in you, convicting you, but you haven't really got serious about your Christian walk? Or do you not really know what we are talking about? Is your life characterized by continual, willful sin without conviction, repentance, or change, If so, it's a strong sign you may not be truly born again. You can change that today! You can live with an Authentic Hope in Jesus Christ.



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