

Seeing Jesus Face to Face

Today begins the last quarter of our 2022 vision plan curriculum. Thus far this year, our intentions with this theme have been 1) To understand how precious Jesus is; 2) To understand the uniqueness of Jesus; and 3) To maintain the unity He has given us. Now, during the 4th quarter, we'll turn our attention to the ultimate goal ... seeing Jesus face to face. This is our hope. An even higher status awaits us in the future. All of this is based off the thesis statement for the book in 1 John 5.13: *I have written these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life.* How can we dwell securely in the fact that I will see Him face to face?

I. Remain in Him

- A. 1 John 2:28: *So now, little children, **remain** in him so that when he appears we may have confidence and not be ashamed before him at his coming.*
 - 1. A call to persevere; to continue in His word; not a casual, acknowledgement of who Jesus is.
 - 2. What gets us through? 1 John 5:4b: *This is the victory that has conquered the world: our **faith**.*
- B. Your hope in seeing the Lord face to face is secured holding fast to the Savior.

II. Do What is Right

- A. 1 John 2:29: *If you know that he is righteous, you know this as well: Everyone who does what is **right** has been born of him.*
 - 1. If you are a child of God, you will manifest the life that is in you.
 - 2. Righteousness is the result of the life of the righteous one in us. We have been born in Him.
- B. A righteous life produces righteous behavior.
 - 1. Galatians 5:24: *Now those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.*
 - 2. 2 Peter 1:5-7: supplement your faith with...
- C. If you have fully surrendered to Christ, these things should be on display in your life ...

III. Embrace How God Loves You

- A. 1 John 3:1a: *See what great love the Father has given us ...*
 - 1. "See" - Hear John's astonishment/amazement. It's exclamatory.
 - 2. "What great love..." It's inexplicable. It's beyond us.
 - 3. "It has been **given** to us..." with generosity...
- B. 1 John 3.1b: *we should be called God's **children**.* Adopted as children.
- C. 1 John 3.1c: *and we are ...* our status is a present reality.

IV. Focus on Heaven

- A. 1 John 3:2a: our future personhood is not yet apparent, but...
- B. 1 John 3.2b - *when he appears we shall be like him because we will see him **as he is**.*
 - 1. Philippians 3:14: *I pursue as my goal the **prize** promised by God's heavenly call in Christ Jesus.* The prize is to be like Jesus.
 - 2. This is also Paul's thinking in Romans 8.29 - we're going to be **conformed** to the image of the Son. The hope of heaven is to be like Jesus.

V. Strive for Purity

- A. 1 John 3:3: *And everyone who has this hope in him **purifies** himself just as he is pure.*
- B. What is God's ultimate purpose for your salvation? To become like Jesus. To be completely pure.
- C. We fix our hope on Jesus. We want to be **pure** as He is.
- D. What happens when you fix your eyes on Jesus? Purity. See 2 Corinthians 3.18.

VI. As We Close...

- A. Living in this hope is absolutely life-changing.
- B. Have you allowed it to change yours? Do you need to be saved?