

The First Epistle of JOHN
Chapter 3:1-3
“God’s Love & Hope!”

Introduction: 1 John 2:28-29 – The LORD is COMING! Get RIGHT, not LEFT! (Matthew 25:1-13; 1Thessalonians 4:13-18)

I) GOD’S LOVE FOR YOU! (v1)

➤ **Five great truths:**

Truth #1 - God’s love for you is SACRIFICIAL - John 3:16 - *For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.*

Porter Barrington writes - *It is an eternal fact that God loves you with an everlasting love that cannot be fathomed; it is so boundless that it can only be known by faith. The little word “so” in the above verse is most expressive. It gives you some concept of the magnitude of God’s love. God so loved you, that He gave His only begotten Son, to be sin for you, that you might become the righteousness of God in Him (2 Cor. 5:21). Jesus Christ was made that which God hates: sin—that you might become that which God loves: righteousness. Because God so loved you, you can exchange your sins for His righteousness. Could you ask for greater evidence of love? Calvary is proof that God loves, and longs to save you.*

Truth #2 - God’s love for you is EVERLASTING - Jeremiah 31:3 - *The LORD has appeared of old to me, saying: “Yes, I have loved you with an everlasting love; Therefore with lovingkindness I have drawn you.*

Truth #3 - God’s love for you is INSPITE of you - Romans 5:8 - *But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.*

Truth #4 - God’s love for you is GREAT! - Ephesians 2:4-7 - *But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.*

Truth #5 – God’s love for you in Christ is INSEPARABLE! - Romans 8:35-39 - *Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written: “For Your sake we are killed all day long; We are accounted as sheep for the slaughter.” Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. 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 created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

➤ **Jesus exemplified God’s love for you through:**

- **FORGIVENESS - The Sinful Woman - Luke 7:36-50; Luke chapter 15.**
- **SERVICE - John 13:1-17 - “Be blessed!”**
- **SACRIFICE - John 15:13 - “Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one’s life for his friends.”**

(Insight on becoming a “child of God” - John 1:12-13 - *But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name: who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God. **Romans 8:15-17** - For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, “**Abba, Father.**” The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs--heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together. **2 Cor 6:18** - “I will be a **Father** to you, and you shall be My sons and daughters, Says the LORD Almighty.” **Paul’s response to Christ love: Gal 2:20-21** - *I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.*)*

II) OUR HOPE IN GOD! (v2,3)

(v2) “When he is revealed” – Let’s look to the revelation of Christ in **Revelation Chapter 5**. What about “**we shall be like Him**” - **1 Corinthians 15:50-58** - *Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; nor does corruption inherit incorruption. Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed — in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. So when this corruptible has put on incorruption, and this mortal has put*

on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written: "Death is swallowed up in victory." "O Death, where is your sting? O Hades, where is your victory?" The sting of death is sin, and the strength of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.

(v3) **What HOPE do we have?** According to *Nelson's Bible Dictionary* – **HOPE** is a confident expectancy. In the Bible, the word hope stands for both the act of hoping (Rom 4:18; 1 Cor 9:10) and the thing hoped for (Col 1:5; 1 Peter 1:3). Hope does not arise from the individual's desires or wishes but from God, who is Himself the believer's hope: "My hope is in You" (Ps 39:7). Genuine hope is not wishful thinking, but a firm assurance about things that are unseen and still in the future (Rom 8:24-25; Heb 11:1,7). Hope distinguishes the Christian from the unbeliever, who has no hope (Eph 2:12; 1 Thess 4:13). Indeed, a Christian is one in whom hope resides (1 Peter 3:15; 1 John 3:3). In contrast to Old Testament hope, the Christian hope is superior (Heb 7:19). Christian hope comes from God (Rom 15:13) and especially His calling (Eph 1:18; 4:4), His grace (2 Thess 2:16), His Word (Rom 15:4) and His gospel (Col 1:23). Hope is directed toward God (Acts 24:15; 1 Peter 1:21) and Christ (1 Thess 1:3; 1 Tim 1:1). Its appropriate objects are eternal life (Titus 1:2; 3:7), salvation (1 Thess 5:8), righteousness (Gal 5:5), the glory of God (Rom 5:2; Col 1:27), the appearing of Christ (Titus 2:13) and the resurrection from the dead (Acts 23:6; 26:6-7).

> **The Bible teaches that our HOPE in JESUS PURIFIES us!** Warren Wiersbe writes - "*An unbeliever who sins is a creature sinning against his Creator. A Christian who sins is a child sinning against his Father. The unbeliever sins against law; the believer sins against love.*" There's a story about a group of teenagers who were enjoying a party, and someone suggested that they go to a certain restaurant for a good time. "I'd rather you took me home," Jan said to her date. "My parents don't approve of that place." "Afraid your dad will hurt you?" one of the girls asked sarcastically. "No," Jan replied, "I'm not afraid my father will hurt me, but I am afraid I might hurt him." She understood the principle that a true child of God, who has experienced the love of God, has no desire to sin against that love."

> **Christians have the HOPE of HEAVEN and GLORIFICATION!** - Phil 3:20-21- *For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will transform our lowly body that it may be conformed to His glorious body, according to the working by which He is able even to subdue all things to Himself.*

- **SMILE! GOD LOVES YOU!**- 1 Cor 2:9-10- *"Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor have entered into the heart of man the things which God has prepared for those who love Him." But God has revealed them to us through His Spirit.*