



FIRST BAPTIST
CHURCH
FAIR OAKS RANCH

Day 20: Everyone Who Has This Hope

1 John 3:2–3 *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. And everyone who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure. (ESV)*

DEVOTIONAL

Yesterday drew the link between expectancy and holiness, today Scripture makes the connection unmistakable. Our focus text describes the future, one day we will see Christ face to face and be made completely like Him. It ends as it draws out the present-day implication in one convicting thought: “everyone who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure.” This hope is the confidence we have that Christ will return, He will redeem us, we will experience eternal life, and death and sin will be no more. Hope here is another picture of faith, by a different word. The hope of seeing Christ produces purity now. Every single time. No exceptions. That’s how tightly the two are bound.

The text gives us the mechanism as to how this works: “we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is.” One day, no longer by faith, but by the sight of Christ will finish the work — we will be instantly and forever made to be like Him. But John’s point is that the anticipation of that day begins its work early. The person who genuinely longs to see Christ, and to be like Him, doesn’t wait passively for that transformation; he leans into it in the here and now, cooperating with grace and the Holy Spirit, cleaning house in preparation for the Guest of guests.

Consider the everyday picture behind this. When you know an honored visitor is coming to your home, you prepare. You clean the rooms, especially the ones you’d normally leave a mess. You don’t wait until they knock; the expectation itself sets you to work in advance. John says the Christian’s hope operates exactly this way. Charles Spurgeon often reminded his congregation that a genuine hope of heaven is

one of the most practical, sanctifying forces in a believer's life; that the man who truly expects to dwell with a holy God will not be content to keep company with sin along the way.

Notice, too, the standard John sets: "as he is pure." We're not purifying ourselves toward some vague moral improvement, or comparing ourselves to the person next to us. The measuring line is Christ Himself, His perfect purity. That could feel crushing, except that our text surrounds it with grace: we are "God's children *now*," already loved, already His. We don't purify ourselves to become His children; we purify ourselves because we already are, and because we long to see our Father's face unashamed.

TAKE AWAY

When an honored guest is coming, you clean house in advance. Christ is coming, and you will see Him — so let that hope set you to purifying the rooms of your heart today.

PRAYER PROMPT

Ask the Lord to let the hope of seeing Him face to face move you to purify one area of your life today.