

Sunday, June 11, 2023

Behold

1 John 2:29-3:3

Read Text. Pray. Main point this morning- **Believe and Behold**

When a child is born the family comes and says things like, he looks just like his mom. He's got his dad's eyes, grandpa's nose, etc.

Jake being recognized by friends, "That's a Grossi".

-Jacob will never stop being my son. It's in his DNA. And that's John's point throughout this short letter... We are born of God. His kids. Born again, born from above... therefore, we take on our dad's traits. But it's different in the kingdom. It's not nose or eyes, it's "He's got his dad's heart", "He looks just like Jesus" You mean he looks like a Jewish man from the middle east?" "No. But it's the way he walks... He walks like Jesus".

Read Vs. 29- Born of God. First time John uses this term, born or begotten. **He uses it 8 more times from here. Example-->Read 3:9.**

-The argument is not, "Why can't you more like Jesus! Get it together!", but instead, these are the traits you inherited from your father! What are some common traits of God's kids?

Righteousness.

If you know (perceive and are sure) that He [Christ] is [absolutely] righteous [conforming to the Father's will in purpose, thought, and action], you may also know (be sure) that everyone who does righteously [and is therefore in like manner conformed to the divine will] is born (begotten) of Him [God]. 1 John 2:29

A trait you have inherited is righteousness; conforming to the Father's will in purpose, thought, and action. **Believe!**

How did we inherit this? The Gospel.

But now the **righteousness of God** has been manifested apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it—**the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe**. For there is no distinction: for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified **by his grace as a gift**, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, Romans 3:21-24

and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith— Philippians 3:9

Why did God do this? Because he loves us.

but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Romans 5:8

Which is another trait we inherited, God's love. Believe!

Read 3:1

"See" is imperative. Which should change the Christian narrative. He is talking about righteousness and purity but note these are not the commands. The command is "see", or "behold". Which means *"to take special notice of something, with the implication of concerning oneself."*¹

See or behold what? The Fathers love for us! The "what" here in our text is only used in the NT for marvel or amazement; It literally means "of what country". Kent Hughes says in his commentary *"Had you lived in the first century in a Greek seaport town, you might one day be about your business, and suddenly there would be a rustle among the people down on the docks, and word would spread that a ship was coming. You would hear the the word "pōtapēn?" Which literally means 'Of what country?' 'What new people are coming? What new things are we going to hear?' This is the word in 3:1 and it bristles with surprise, astonishment, urgency, and excitement."* See what kind of Love the Father has given to us!" Which makes sense, because God's love for us is foreign, surprising, and astonishing! It comes from heaven through the cross and to our hearts. It abides, remains with us!

¹ Louw, J. P., & Nida, E. A. (1996). [Greek-English lexicon of the New Testament: based on semantic domains](#)

so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith—that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. Ephesians 3:17-19

For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Romans 8:38-39

This love, this abiding love, showers over us this... We are children of God! Believe & Behold what love! **We have inherited identity!** We know who we are!

However, the world however won't recognize this... The word "know" means to acknowledge.

-This is where children of God can go wrong. Finding affirmation from the world. Explain and be open to the Spirit for context.

How do we combat that? Remember who you are!!!

Read vs. 2

It's now, currently and presently, you are children of God. That means God loves you, as you are. The AMP, we are **[even here and]** now God's children.

That's enough, but that's not all!

MSG- *But friends, that's exactly who we are: children of God. And that's only the beginning. Who knows how we'll end up! What we know is that when Christ is openly revealed, we'll see him—and in seeing him, become like him.*

We have inherited hope!!!

Read vs. 3

We have inherited purity!

The word purity originally signifies “that which awakens religious awe.”² It is the word for holy or holiness.

How I wish I understood this as a new Christian.

-Be Holy for I am Holy. 1 Peter 1:16

You have inherited purity→ live into that trait.

APPLICATION

Believe you have inherited Jesus’ righteousness, the Father’s love, identity, hope and purity!

“**Behold** what LOVE the Father” has, by his grace, granted these things to you and live by faith the assurance

Believe and behold!

STUDY NOTES

1 John 2:29-3:3

Main Point- We are God’s kids BECAUSE of God’s love... Behold that!

Key Words- know 3x. Love and beloved.

Key Verses-3:1

FCF- Acknowledgement from the world

General God Key Words Command Truth Sin

[29] If you know that he is righteous, you may be sure that everyone who practices righteousness has been born of him.

1 John 3

[1] 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

² Hauck, F. (1964-). [ἀγνός, ἀγνίζω, ἀγνεία, ἀγνότης, ἀγνισμός](#). G. Kittel, G. W. Bromiley, & G. Friedrich (Eds.),

know him. [2] Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears³ we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is. [3] And everyone who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure.

Initial Thoughts

Verse 29- If, then statement (indicative). *If you know [Jesus and the way he lived], then you may be sure of others who are of Jesus by the way they live.**

*Note, there seems to be a bookend within these verses; Righteous <-> Pure / Practice righteousness <-> purifies himself

3:1a-See (Behold) is an imperative. (See Greek Study). This is a spectacular command. It is literally *"to take special notice with the implication of concerning oneself with"*⁴ God's love. The indicative it's anchoring to is our adoption as sons. This. Is. So. Good. Why? Because the surrounding verses that are indicatives; simple truths about righteousness and purity are the usual pursuits of the Christian.

3:1b- FCF; The world will not "know" [recognize, acknowledge] us. This is relatable. Who doesn't want to be acknowledged? Yet, when we set up to gain it from those who do not believe, we never attain it. Verse 2 shows the remedy.

3:2- The remedy to chasing acknowledgment from others is we already have it from God. *"Beloved, we are God's children"*. It's almost like John is saying, *"If that wasn't enough, guess what?!?! That's not all!!! We know [recognize, acknowledge (same word in the Greek as verse 1b)] that he's coming back AND we will finally and once for all be like him AND see him as he is!"*

3:3- Got this hope? Then you will prepare. How? By walking like Jesus walked; in purity.

³ 3:2 Or *when it appears*

⁴ Louw, J. P., & Nida, E. A. (1996). [Greek-English lexicon of the New Testament: based on semantic domains](#)

Translations

VS 29

ESV-If you know that he is righteous, you may be sure that everyone who practices righteousness has been born of him.

NIV-If you know that he is righteous, you know that everyone who does what is right has been born of him.

NASB-If you know that He is righteous, you know that everyone also who practices righteousness is born of Him.

NKJV-If you know that He is righteous, you know that everyone who practices righteousness is born of Him.

CEB-If you know that he is righteous, you know this as well: Everyone who does what is right has been born of him.

AMP-If you know (perceive and are sure) that He [Christ] is [absolutely] righteous [conforming to the Father's will in purpose, thought, and action], you may also know (be sure) that everyone who does righteously [and is therefore in like manner conformed to the divine will] is born (begotten) of Him [God]. 1 John 2:29

NLT-Since we know that Christ is righteous, we also know that all who do what is right are God's children.

MSG-Once you're convinced that he is right and righteous, you'll recognize that all who practice righteousness are God's true children.

Thoughts-ESV says 'you may be sure' while the most say 'know'. The AMP clarifies by saying '*If you know (perceive and are sure)*'. I like the AMP; *righteous [conforming to the Father's will in purpose, thought, and action]* and those who practice righteousness; *[conforming to the Father's will in purpose, thought, and action]*.

3:1

ESV- 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.

NIV- See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are! The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him.

NASB- See how great a love the Father has bestowed on us, that we would be called children of God; and such we are. For this reason the world does not know us, because it did not know Him.

NKJV- Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of God! Therefore the world does not know us, because it did not know Him.

CEB- See what great love the Father has given us that we should be called God's children—and we are! The reason the world does not know us is that it didn't know him.

AMP- SEE WHAT [an incredible] quality of love the Father has given (shown, bestowed on) us, that we should [be permitted to] be named and called and counted the children of God! And so we are! The reason that the world does not know (recognize, acknowledge) us is that it does not know (recognize, acknowledge) Him.

NLT- See how very much our Father loves us, for he calls us his children, and that is what we are! But the people who belong to this world don't recognize that we are God's children because they don't know him.

MSG- What marvelous love the Father has extended to us! Just look at it—we're called children of God! That's who we really are. But that's also why the world doesn't recognize us or take us seriously, because it has no idea who he is or what he's up to.

Thoughts- The ESV seems to have less emphasis than the other translations do. All translations except the ESV and NASB have an "!" At the end of the verse. AMP uses all caps for "SEE WHAT". This leads me to believe the SEE is in the same Greek form as YOU in vs. 27.

There are also adjectives used to describe the Father's love not found in the ESV; "great" (NIV, NASB, CEB), an incredible quality of love (AMP), how very much our Father loves (NLT), and what marvelous love (MSG). (*See commentaries below for greater understanding*)

Lastly the ESV says “has given to us” but the word ‘given’ means lavish.⁵ Basically, the ESV, in trying to be specific, comes across as boring.

3:1b- I like how the MSG says ‘doesn’t recognize us or take us seriously’, which ties into the FCF; seeking acknowledgment from the world.

3:2

ESV- 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.

NIV- Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when Christ appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is.

NASB- Beloved, now we are children of God, and it has not appeared as yet what we will be. We know that when He appears, we will be like Him, because we will see Him just as He is.

NKJV- Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is.

CEB- Dear friends, we are God’s children now, and what we will be has not yet been revealed. We know that when he appears, we will be like him because we will see him as he is.

AMP- Beloved, we are [even here and] now God’s children; it is not yet disclosed (made clear) what we shall be [hereafter], but we know that when He comes and is manifested, we shall [as God’s children] resemble and be like Him, for we shall see Him just as He [really] is.

NLT- Dear friends, we are already God’s children, but he has not yet shown us what we will be like when Christ appears. But we do know that we will be like him, for we will see him as he really is.

⁵ The perfect tense verb “has lavished” (*dedōken*) is significant here and further accentuates the permanent results of this divine love. Akin, D. L. (2001). [1, 2, 3 John](#) (Vol. 38, p. 133).

MSG-But friends, that's exactly who we are: children of God. And that's only the beginning. Who knows how we'll end up! What we know is that when Christ is openly revealed, we'll see him—and in seeing him, become like him.

Thoughts- I like the distinction of the AMP; *[even here and] now*. It speaks to the present in case someone leans to a future version of themselves. In other words, we are God's children right now. The MSG brings the most clarity to the rest of the verse when it says *'that's only the beginning... and in seeing him, become like him'*

3:3

ESV- And everyone who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure.

NIV- All who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure.

NASB- And everyone who has this hope fixed on Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.

NKJV- And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.

CEB- Same as NKJV.

AMP- And everyone who has this hope [resting] on Him cleanses (purifies) himself just as He is pure (chaste, undefiled, guiltless).

NLT- And all who have this eager expectation will keep themselves pure, just as he is pure.

MSG- All of us who look forward to his Coming stay ready, with the glistening purity of Jesus' life as a model for our own.

Thoughts-

Commentaries

Behold what manner of love! Ποταμός; literally, "of what country," in the New Testament always implies amazement (Matt. 8:27; Mark 13:1; Luke 1:29-30; 7:39; 2

Pet. 3:11-12); but, as the original meaning leads us to expect, it implies marvelous quality rather than marvelous size.⁶

The adjective *potapēn* translated “how great” (NIV) or “what manner” (KJV), which occurs only seven times in the New Testament, always implies astonishment.⁷

⁶ Spence-Jones, H. D. M. (Ed.). (1909). [1 John](#) (p. 70).

⁷ Akin, D. L. (2001). [1, 2, 3 John](#) (Vol. 38, p. 132). Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers.