



# CAPITOL COMMISSION™

**1 JOHN 2:29-3:3 – REVIEW...WHAT DO YOU BELIEVE!  
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## **I. LET'S REVIEW- 1 JOHN 2:12 - 1 JOHN 3:3**

*John contrasts and confronts us with two ways to live. First there is the one who attaches himself to the world's aims and ways and is giving himself to the world which has no future. All those things are passing away. None have any permanency and only eventual disappointment. But then, there is the one who has taken God as the center of their life. This one has given his or her life to the things that last and abide forever. This one is certain of lasting joy for they have given their life to that which is certain through all eternity. Which way have you attached yourself to?*

### **A. DO YOU PRACTICE RIGHTEOUSNESS? 1 JOHN 2:29**

A true believer will have a life where righteousness is pursued and practiced. This is because it is our aim and sole ambition to please God. And what pleases God? John tells us over in many ways that obedience, or a righteous life is what pleases the Lord. John's appeal has been that we abide continually in Christ so we will not be ashamed at His coming. What would make us ashamed at His coming? Living a life we were saved from...*sin*. When we come to know Christ as our Savior and Lord, we turn from sin to righteousness. All who profess to be saved but don't demonstrate tangible fruit of righteousness prove they are not true believers. Such folks have an empty claim on a relationship with Christ and their lives betray their heart. John asserts here in this verse that there is a connection between knowing God and doing righteousness. He continues to put the spotlight on this truth. Abiding in Christ will be by faith but also by obedience.<sup>2</sup> John does not write these verses to scare nor to assure Christians. He writes to show the incongruity of the attitude of indifference to sin. It is not acceptable for Christians to sin. For us believers, sin must be the exception and not the rule. We must be hating sin and sin fighting. And while we have sinful patterns or habits, our new habits of holiness are our prevailing lifestyle. Real and radical change has happened inwardly and outwardly. We have made a decisive break. Our way of life is not characterized by a life of sin, but a life of loving obedience for we "*practice righteousness*". We are loved by God and saved by Christ's cross. And holiness matters to a holy God. God is our Father and we are a reflection of our Father. Therefore, we live as God's offspring now. Make a fresh effort to pursue holiness.<sup>3</sup>

### **B. "AND SUCH WE ARE!" - 1 JOHN 3:1**

The opening verses of 1 John 3 are some of the most encouraging and reassuring verses in all of Scripture as John introduces us to the summit of all God's blessings to His

people in Christ!<sup>4</sup> Keep John's main point in mind here in this verse! "*And such we are*", God's own children! Not by nature or entitlement, but only by God's grace! This is an immense privilege. God Himself has chosen us to be His family. As John 1:12-13 describes, we are children born not of natural descent into God's family, nor of any human decision, but we are born of God. As an outcome of God's love lavished on us, we are children of His. Take time to meditate on that! Contemplate and wonder that we are called children of God! And give our Father thanks!

### **C. WHEN JESUS CHRIST APPEARS! - 1 JOHN 3:2**

God's ultimate purpose is to conform us to "*the image of His Son*." At this point, we can only dimly understand what it will mean for us to be "*like Him*." The indwelling Holy Spirit is at work in the lives of all believers, inwardly transforming us day by day to be like Christ. That is why John, and all of Scripture for that matter, stresses the ambition of pursuing holiness now. We will not fully realize our pursuit until Jesus Christ returns. Philippians 1:6 says, "*For I am confident of this very thing, that He Who began a good work in you will perfect it until the day of Christ Jesus*." When Christ returns, our yearning for Christlikeness will be fully realized as John says with certainty, "*we shall be like Him*." Revelation 22:4 talks about in the end, when we will see Jesus. We will see "*His face*". When we see Christ, we will be transformed and have glorified resurrected bodies, clean character and satisfied souls! This is God's transforming love. Our Christian hope is assured of a future realization because of Who promised it, Jesus Christ! What a glorious future we have as Christians.

### **D. THE HOPE OF CHRIST'S RETURN! - 1 JOHN 3:3**

As our hope is fixed on Christ, it will result in a growing desire to become like Him now. (Galatians 2:20, Ephesians 4:17-32, and Colossians 3:1-17)<sup>5</sup> "*Everyone*" John says, without exception, who has this hope fixed on Christ, fixed or resting on Christ as our pattern and example for holy living, will follow Him with increasing diligence and fervor. (Philippians 3:12-14, 1 Timothy 6:12, Hebrews 12:1) This will be our present focus in life. No matter what your occupation or position, this is to be our focus. Is it yours? The Christian "*hope*" has its foundation on Jesus Christ, grounded on the promise of Christ (Hebrews 10:23). This hope is certain because it rests on Christ. Yes this hope concerns an unseen future, but does not imply any uncertainty. It is sure. "*Fixed on*

## **BIBLE STUDIES**

LEGISLATORS, GOVERNOR & SPOUSES: TUESDAY AT 7:15AM, CAPITOL BASEMENT, ROOM 0109

STAFF, LOBBYISTS, JOURNALISTS & SERGEANTS: TUESDAYS AT NOON, [SSB 1525 SHERMAN, RM #603- ACROSS COLFAX FROM CAPITOL](#)

# Colorado

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Him”, our confident expectation is upon Christ and His return. Therefore, it is this one, the genuine believer, who is fixed on Christ, John says, “*will purify himself*”. Every believer who has set his/her hope, fixed, on Christ will be motivated to be like Christ...*pure!* This “*hope*” will express itself in an effort to purify oneself. But this sanctifying work can only be done through the enabling work of the Holy Spirit to make us like our Lord. Of course, it will also require our participation of obedience along with God’s grace.<sup>6</sup> As we await with great expectation the appearing of our Lord and Savior, may we be about this business of holiness. For us, sin must become the exception and not the rule. As Christians, we are to look like Christ. Holiness must be our prevailing lifestyle because a real and radical change has happened inside and out. May our love and longing for a closer relationship with our Lord be a present reality in our lives. This battle with sin is one worth fighting. Colossians 3:1-17 speaks about putting to death all that is worldly, earthly in us. It will require a resolute determination and the work of the Holy Spirit to do battle with indwelling sin and pressing temptations in this godless world. It will not be easy, but it will be worth it just to please our Lord. Do not get discouraged or weary as you seek purity and holiness but press on as Paul said in Philippians 3:13b-14 “*this one thing I do...I press on...to the upward call of God.*” The prize will be when we receive that upward call, our battle is over and we see Christ and become pure, just as Christ is pure! What a day that will be. So do not give up, do not give in. Continue practicing righteousness until He comes so you will not be ashamed at His coming.

### E. CONCLUDING THOUGHTS! - 1 JOHN 2:29-3:3

1 John is a message written about eternal life: the very life of God revealed in Jesus and shared by all who put their trust in Him. This eternal life is secured in God through Jesus Christ His Son.<sup>7</sup> These words from John give us the starting point of

revelation, the disclosure of God in Christ. Though many were denying that Jesus Christ came in the flesh, John gives his eyewitness testimony to the fact that Jesus is God Incarnate.

It is this most awkward truth of all (Jesus Christ is fully God and fully man in one Person) that John pulls together as essential for the gospel because only with this doctrine does what happened on the cross make sense. Who Christ is and what Christ did are bound together. If you try to parse away Who Jesus is, you may have a neater philosophy that is easier to believe, but you will misunderstand Christ and forfeit the gospel. In addition, if you do not understand Who Jesus is, then John says you are not a Christian. You must know that in His love for us God Himself took on flesh, lived a perfect life, died the death sinners deserve, and then arose in victory over sin and death. For God to be tempted like any man as we are and pay for sin, He had to be fully man. Along with that, He had to live a perfect life and be the perfect sacrifice for sin so Christ had to be fully God. The most important question you could ever ask yourself is Who is Jesus Christ? Do you believe He is the Son of God? <sup>8</sup>

The Incarnation of the Son of God rests at the very heart of our Christian faith. In no other way could God justly deal with the sin that set us under His just judgement and provides us with the righteousness that would fit us for fellowship with Him. As 2 Corinthians 5:19 tells us that it was in Christ, the God-Man, was reconciling the world to Himself. This is the uniqueness of Christ that the world stumbles over. The gospel of Jesus is not one of a number of options for men and women to consider...it is the one and only way for sinners to be reconciled to God and rescued from the coming wrath.<sup>9</sup>

This is why John was compelled to warn the church. And you must ask yourself, what do you believe?

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<sup>1</sup> Barclay, William, *Letters of John and Jude*. The Saint Andrews Press: Edinburgh, Scotland, 1958, 1974. Pg. 69.

<sup>2</sup> MacArthur, John, *MacArthur Commentary Series on 1-3 John*. Moody Press: Chicago, IL, 2007. Pg. 113.

<sup>3</sup> O'Donnell, Douglas Sean, *Reformed Expository Commentary: 1-3 John*. P&R Publishing Company: Phillipsburg, NJ, 2015. Pg. 99.

<sup>4</sup> Hamilton, Ian, *Let's Study the Letters of John*. The Banner of Truth Trust: Edinburgh, UK, 2008. Pg. 33.

<sup>5</sup> MacArthur, John, *MacArthur Commentary Series on 1-3 John*. Moody Press: Chicago, IL, 2007. Pg. 117.

<sup>6</sup> MacArthur, John, *MacArthur Commentary Series on 1-3 John*. Moody Press: Chicago, IL, 2007. Pg. 118.

<sup>7</sup> Erdman, Charles R., *The General Epistles: An Exposition*. The Westminster Press: Philadelphia, PA, 1919. Pg. 114.

<sup>8</sup> Dever, Mark, *The Message of the New Testament: Promises Kept*. Crossway: Wheaton, IL, 2005. Pg.477.

<sup>9</sup> Hamilton, Ian, *Let's Study the Letters of John*. The Banner of Truth Trust: Edinburgh, UK, 2008. Pg. 2.