



I JOHN: WHEN TRUTH IS LIVED
“CHILDREN OF GOD”
I JOHN 2:29—3:2

JOHN'S GREAT OBJECT IN WRITING IS THAT HE HOPES HIS READERS MIGHT HAVE A FULL JOY; THAT IS THE THEME ANNOUNCED IN THE FOURTH VERSE IN CHAPTER ONE—“THESE THINGS WRITE WE UNTO YOU, THAT YOUR JOY MAY BE FULL.” IT IS THEREFORE POSSIBLE FOR THE CHRISTIAN, IN THIS LIFE AND IN THIS WORLD, SUCH AS IT IS WITH ALL OF ITS TROUBLES AND ITS TRIALS, TO HAVE A FULLNESS OF JOY. THE APOSTLE SAYS IT IS ALL POSSIBLE THROUGH HAVING FELLOWSHIP WITH GOD. HE GOES ON TO TELL US HOW WE CAN DO THAT, AND IT IS ALL SUMMED UP IN THE WORD *RIGHTEOUSNESS*. “RIGHTEOUSNESS” IS ESSENTIAL TO FELLOWSHIP WITH GOD, AND HE HAS ALREADY TOLD US CERTAIN WITH RESPECT TO RIGHTEOUSNESS. NOW, AS WE COME THESE VERSES, HE TELLS US ANOTHER REASON WE ARE TO LIVE A RIGHTEOUS LIFE—IT IS BECAUSE WE ARE CALLED “THE CHILDREN OF GOD.” WE HAVE A HIGH CALLING AS “CHILDREN OF GOD” AND JOHN TELLS US SOMETHING ABOUT IT:

I. ITS COMMENCEMENT IN THE PAST(3:1)

ALL OF THE BIBLE TELLS US THAT “GOD IS LOVE.” LOVE IS NOT SOMETHING GOD THINKS ABOUT AND THEN DOES, LOVE IS WHAT GOD IS. IT IS THROUGH LOVE THAT GOD REVEALS HIMSELF IN BOTH THE OLD AND NEW TESTAMENTS. GOD'S LOVE PERMEATES OUR PLANET DESPITE THE FACT OF SIN AND DEATH. LIFE WOULD BE MEANINGLESS WITHOUT LOVE, WHICH REVEALS ITSELF IN ALL KINDS OF WAYS. WE PROFESS LOVE IN ALL THE DIFFERENT KINDS OF RELATIONSHIPS IN LIFE, BUT THERE IS NO LOVE LIKE GOD'S! HIS LOVE IS ETERNAL, IT IS UNCONDITIONAL, AND IT IS INCOMPREHENSIBLE. GOD'S LOVE FOR US IS SO GREAT THAT JESUS TOLD US WE COULD GO TO HIM IN PRAYER AND ADDRESS HIM AS ‘OUR FATHER.’ HE LOVES US ENOUGH TO MAKE US HIS CHILDREN. JOHN DESCRIBES US IN TERMS OF “REGENERATION”, OF BEING BORN AGAIN, OF HAVING GOD'S VERY NATURE IMPARTED INTO US WHEN WE ARE SAVED. PAUL USES TERMS DESCRIBING HOW WE ARE “ADOPTED” INTO GOD'S FAMILY. THE MEANING IS THE SAME--GOD LOVES US SO MUCH HE IS READY TO MAKE US PART OF HIS FAMILY—HE CALLS US HIS CHILDREN!

II. ITS CONTINUATION IN THE PRESENT(3:2)

WE WERE LOVED BY THE LORD FROM LONG AGO, BUT VERSE TWO SAYS, “BELOVED, *NOW* ARE WE THE SONS OF GOD.” THAT IS A POSITIVE ASSERTION, SO, WE NEED HAVE NO DOUBTS ABOUT OUR SALVATION. WE HAVE A “PRESENT-TENSE SALVATION” BECAUSE WE HAVE A PRESENT-TENSE GOD. GOD TOLD MOSES THAT HIS NAME WAS “I AM.” HE IS THE GOD OF THE PRESENT.

GOD SEES TIME IN A DIFFERENT WAY THAN WE DO. AS FAR AS OUR SALVATION IS CONCERNED, IT IS IN THREE TENSES. GOD SEES THE PAST AND FORGIVES AND FORGETS; HE SEES OUR FUTURE PROSPECTS AND FORETELLS AND FULFILLS THEM; HE SEES OUR PRESENT AND FRAMES AND FILLS IT. HE DOES ALL OF THIS FOR US BECAUSE WE ARE HIS CHILDREN!

III. ITS CONSUMMATION IN THE FUTURE (3:2)

SINCE WE ARE CREATURES OF TIME WE CANNOT ESCAPE EITHER THE PAST OR THE FUTURE. SO, JOHN LOOKS AT OUR FUTURE—AND IT IS GLORIOUS! WE ARE GOING TO HAVE A NEW BODY, A NEW HOME IN HEAVEN, AND WE ARE GOING TO HAVE A JOINT INHERITANCE OF THE GLORY OF CHRIST. IT WILL BE A LIFE BEYOND ALL

Presented by Dr. Jimmy Hilton

**SOUTH POINT
BAPTIST CHURCH**

Finding God's Direction for Life



COMPREHENSION BECAUSE GOD LOVES US WITH A LOVE THAT IS BEYOND ALL COMPREHENSION.

THINK OF WHAT IT COST OUR SAVIOR, OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, TO COME INTO THE WORLD, TO LIVE IN THE WORLD, SUFFERING ITS TREATMENT, STAGGERING UP TO CALVARY WITH THAT HEAVY CROSS ON HIS SHOULDERS AND BEING NAILED TO IT. THINK OF HIM DYING, SUFFERING THE AGONY AND THE SHAME OF IT ALL IN ORDER THAT ALL OF US MIGHT BECOME THE CHILDREN OF GOD. IF THAT DOESN'T MOTIVATE US TO LIVE A RIGHTEOUS AND HOLY LIFE, THEN WHAT DOES?

THERE IS NOTHING GREATER THAN TO BE CALLED A "CHILD OF GOD."