



## FBC Dickson

UNFAILING LOVE IN UNCERTAIN TIMES • HOPE FOR THE HOPELESS • 1 JOHN 2:28-3:3 •  
7/5/2020

### MAIN POINT

To examine the nature of the hope that we have in Christ Jesus.

### INTRODUCTION

**How would you define hope?**

**What are some things you have hoped for or are hoping for?**

Hope defined is "to cherish a desire with anticipation; to want something to happen or be true." I believe for those who follow Christ a more accurate definition is "to expect with confidence". R.C. Sproul defines hope like this, "Hope is called the anchor of the soul (Hebrews 6:19), because it gives stability to the Christian life. But hope is not simply a 'wish' (I wish that such-and-such would take place); rather, it is that which latches on to the certainty of the promises of the future that God has made."

We have all battled hopelessness. Or at least had moments where our hope was clouded. We all need reminded of the hope we have in Christ. Hebrews 11:1 says that our faith is the "reality of what is hoped for". Our faith is anchored in something that is not merely a wish or a desire, it is anchored in a reality, in truth. Our anticipation is confident. God himself through His word and His Spirit has assured us of something. And according to this passage in 1 John that something is the Return of Christ.

### UNDERSTANDING

John lists 5 truths in this passage hope brings or gives us as believers

## 1. Hope Gives Us Boldness to Stand Unashamed

### **Read 1 John 2:28**

**According to this verse, what is the purpose of remaining in Christ?**

**What does it mean to have boldness at His coming?**

John is repeating his desire that they abide in Christ. In Scripture important things are often repeated. Abide, abide, abide. And just when you think you got it. Abide again. Abiding in Christ increases our hope and longing for Him. Abiding in Christ gives us assurance, boldness, and confidence.

A Christian's hope is sure that Christ will return. All will experience this, all will bow, all will acknowledge him as king. For each individual, Christ's return will either mean judgement or redemption.

We can also hope that when he does return, we don't have to be ashamed before Him. Our hope rests in the fact that Christ has covered our shame. He nailed our sin to the cross, took God's wrath upon himself for us, so that we can stand unashamed before him. If you belong to Christ, God the Father will not turn you away, and in His arms is rest and peace and comfort, the removal of all pain and sorrow and depression and all other maladies this world inflicts.

What do you hope for most in Christ's return?

In what ways might we struggle with having boldness "before Him"?

## 2. Hope Frees Us to Pursue Righteousness.

### **Read 1 John 2:29**

According to this verse, righteousness is the fruit of abiding in Christ. To put it in the words of John MacArthur, our hope makes righteousness a habit. The word "born" here is the same Greek word Jesus used with Nicodemus in explaining to him that a person must be "born" again to enter the Kingdom of heaven. So, those born again, or born of Him, bear the fruit of righteousness because Christ is righteous.

If my hope rests in my own ability to pursue God and live for Him then that hope will fail. I have no hope in and of myself to be able do that. However, if my hope rests in Christ, and His righteousness, that hope will not only carry me through this life but throughout all of eternity. That hope never fails.

**What does it mean to practice righteousness?**

**How would explain being "born of God" to someone who is lost?**

### 3. Hope in God's Love That Has Saved Us

**Read 1 John 3:1**

**What did your earthly father mean to you?**

**In what ways were you proud to be his child?**

**According to John, why does the world "not know us" as God's children?**

I can almost picture John's astonishment as he recalls this great truth. We are loved by a heavenly Father. John is utterly amazed at this concept. To be a child of God, is the wildest thing in the world to Him. And what a great cure for hopelessness it is to know you are loved by the God of all the universe. We have a heavenly father. We bear His name. The love God has for his children is astounding. It is that love that enabled us to be called His child. It's his love that came first. It's his love that found us. It's his love that whispered our name and called us out of sin and death. It's his love that even now sustains us, protects us, guides us, teaches us, refines us, purifies us, disciplines us, and is perfecting us.

That is something to hope in. We long for the return of Christ because it will reunite us with our heavenly father. John tells us to place our hope in the fact that we are God's child. And if we are his child, we are loved by him. And if we are loved by him, he will one day bring us home. And there we will see him

**What does it mean to you that God is your Father?**

**How does knowing He is your Father help you in hard times and give you hope?**

### 4. Hope That We Will One Day Be With Christ and Like Christ

**Read 1 John 3:2**

**According to this verse, what hasn't been revealed yet?**

**What do think John means when he says we will be like Christ when we see Him?**

Romans 8:28-30 make it clear the primary purpose and goal of every believer is to be conformed to the image of Christ.

Here John is explaining that same purpose. Here he offers hope by affirming what we will be one day. We are even now God's children, but what we will be hasn't been revealed yet. God's saving grace isn't just a rescue, it is a transformation of all you are: mind, body and soul. You are a new creation in Christ.

We hope in two resurrections. First we hope in the resurrection of Christ. Secondly we hope in our own resurrection. John says "we will be like Him". The resurrection of Christ is the guarantee of our own resurrection.

Our belief in the resurrection of Christ is vital to our hope. Because He was raised we will be too. And what Christ is now in his resurrection body, we will be one day.

### **Read 1 Corinthians 15:43-44**

#### **How does Paul describe the resurrection body?**

So we await His return because then "we will be like Him because we will see Him as He is". We will not be fully like Christ because we are not divine; omnipresent, all knowing, all powerful. But we will be like him in that, to quote the ESV study Bible, we will "be morally without sin, intellectually without falsehood and error, physically without weakness or imperfection, and filled continually with the HS never to grieve him again". Our hope is fueled by the fact that we will see Him and in seeing Him we will be like Him.

What do you look forward to most about your resurrection body?

#### 5. Hope that Causes Us to Walk in Purity

### **Read 1 John 3:3**

#### **What does the word "pure" mean?**

To live in anticipation of the return of Christ, to live with hope, means that it changes the way we live, it makes a difference in our Christian walk. As the people of the Lord, anxiously awaiting his return, we are called to walk in purity.

Purity defined is "to be free of contamination". So what contaminates us before God? Sin. And who has removed that sin from those who believe? Christ by his death on the cross. One day we will be like him, but for now we pursue purity.

### **Read Philippians 2:12-15**

#### **What is our role in pursuing purity?**

## **What is God's role?**

According to v.15, what is God's purposes of enabling us to pursue purity here and now?

God enables us to do as he has called us to do. If he has called us to live in purity, he gives us the strength to do it. We are called to do good works, which the Lord has prepared ahead of time for us to do.

The kind of hope we have is an active hope that pursues righteousness. It's not the kind of hope that sits back and wishes for things to happen, but it's the kind of hope that knows for certain Christ is coming back, and if he is coming back I ought to be found doing what he has called me to do. And I have hope that he will give me the strength and courage required to do it.

## **APPLICATION**

**What may be holding back your hope?**

**How can my hope fuel my daily devotion to God?**

**What do I need to confess to God so I might be able to walk in purity?**

## **PRAYER**

## **COMMENTARY**

Write or insert any Bible study notes or commentary from your preferred sources.

1 John 2:28-29

Maintaining one's personal relationship with Christ will prevent straying into doctrine or conduct of which one will be ashamed at his coming. When he appears many will lack confidence and will shrink back from him, because he will come in judgment. (Taken from ESV Study Bible)

Everyone who does what is right has been born of him. The corollary is that those who do not do what is right, no matter what claims they make to a special anointing, have not been born of God. (Taken from NIV Zondervan Study Bible)

1 John 3:1-2

Little does the world know of the happiness of the real followers of Christ. Little does the world think that these poor, humble, despised ones, are favourites of God, and will dwell in heaven. Let the followers of Christ be content with hard fare here, since they are in a land of strangers, where their Lord was so badly treated before them. The sons of God must walk by faith, and live by hope. They may well wait in faith, hope, and earnest desire, for the revelation of the Lord Jesus. The sons of God will be known, and be made manifest by likeness to their Head. They shall be transformed into the same image, by their view of him. (Taken from Matthew Henry's Concise Commentary)

1 John 3:3

Moral purity is meant here, which is confirmed by v.5. Our hope of being like Christ when he appears must express itself in an effort to purify ourselves to be like him now. (taken from NIV Zondervan Study Bible)

If you believe that Jesus is coming and that someday you are going to be like Him, that will cause you to live a pure life down here. I know of nothing that is such a great incentive for holy living. We are not wonderful now, but we shall be wonderful someday. (taken from J. Vernon McGee's Thru The Bible Commentary Vol. 5)