

THE PURIFYING HOPE!

I John 2:28-3:3

Intro: A. *John is encouraging his hearers to live a life of purity. (2:6)*

1. He shares three incentives for a Christ-like life.
2. All three combine to make up John's purifying hope.

B. *The return of Christ is central to this hope.*

1. John had recorded the Lord's promise in John 14:1-3.
2. Later he wrote about it in the book of Revelation.
3. He himself tuned into this promise.

C. Why would he do that?

I. BECAUSE HE DIDN'T WANT TO BE ASHAMED. (2:28)

A. There should be nothing more certain than the return of Christ.

1. This was Jesus' promise in John 14:1-3).
2. It was the promise of the angels in Acts 1:11.
3. This was what Paul promised in I Thes. 4:13-18.

B. Jesus will definitely come, but in a time when least expected. (Matt. 24:44).

C. His return will be in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye (I Cor. 15:51).

1. Some will be ashamed.
2. Many will be caught in the acts of sin.
3. Most minds will be filled with evil and ungodly thoughts as in Gen. 6:5.

D. John determined to live clean and not be ashamed at His Lord's coming and he encouraged his hearers to do the same.

II. BECAUSE HE APPRECIATED HIS POSITION! (3:1)

A. There were two things John couldn't find words to express.

1. The love of God toward sinners (John 3:16).
2. The position given to those sinners, "Sons of God" (John 1:12). "But as many as received Him, to them gave He the power to become son of God, even to them that believe on His name."

B. Just think, a simple fisherman, a child of the Most High God.

C. This high position made John a grateful man.

1. He wanted to live worthy of his position.
2. He wanted to live like the child of the King.

D. John was not ready for the world's rejection of the Lord.

E. His main desire was to be like Jesus. Jesus was His hero. From the very Beginning.

III. JOHN ANTICIPATED A PERSONAL MEETING WITH THE LORD! (

VSS. 2, 3).

A. At that time he would be just like Jesus.

B. He desired to live as close to Christ as possible.

C. He longed to see His Savior.

D. This hope kept Him pure.

E. Do you have this hope? This hope and knowledge of Christ's return?

F. Are you certain that you are ready for the Lord's return and your judgment?

CONCLUSION: A. Do you, like John, long for purity of life?

B. The countdown is getting lower everyday, your time is running out.

C. Now is the time to get ready for Christ's return. Today is the Day.

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