

Only Family Allowed

1 John 2:28 – 3:10

I. Intro

- A. Christian movie makers, went to streets, asked 2 questions: What do you think of the cross? What does it take to go to heaven?
- B. **Illustration**: Sharing with Jehovah Witness coming for dental van
- C. History tells us there was a crucifixion, Bible tells us about this crucifixion of our Lord; Bible also tells us there is a heaven and a hell; essential to understand both – purpose of the cross and how to get to heaven
- D. Truth about heaven: It is a “family” place where only “family members” are allowed in – members of God’s family; as the ruler of both heaven and earth, God desires for every person to join His family and be able to enter His heavenly kingdom
- E. 2 Peter 3:9 (NIV)
9 The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. (promise - His return, eternal life) He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.
- F. Passage today tells us what it means to be part of God’s family; **READ 1 John 2:28 – 3:10**
- G. 6 things that are **shared** by those part of God’s family, and **reasons** to be excited about being in His family

II. 1st – The Affection

- A. *affection* (def.) - a feeling of liking or caring for someone or something
- B. Affection God has for His people all throughout passage:
 - i. **REFER v. 3:1**: ... *what kind of love* ...
 - ii. **REFER v. 3:2**: *Beloved* ...
 - iii. The word *children* used: **v. 2:28, 3:1, 3:2, 3:7, 3:10**
 - iv. Words *born of God*: **v. 2:29, 3:9 (twice)**
 - v. All references, terms used to describe God’s deep affection for His people
- C. **IMPORTANT TRUTH**: Whatever, whoever, wherever we place our deepest, greatest affections determines what has a hold on us – that is what we “worship”
- D. **IMPORTANT TO REMEMBER – REFER v. 3:10b**: Before we judge anyone, need to be careful, may be the very one we spend eternity with

III. 2nd – The Aim

A. For the children of God, the aim here on earth is to **1) remain in Him (v. 2:28), 2) anticipate and be ready for His return (v. 2:28, 3:2), and 3) be rescued from penalty of sin (v. 3:3, 3:5, 3:6, 3:9)**

B. To *abide in Him* means to walk, live, talk, tell, act as Christ did while on earth

C. To be prepared and ready for His coming again means to be bold and unashamed to share the message of salvation and His coming again with others

D. OT prophets spoke a lot about the “Day of the Lord”; they speak of it as being a day of dread for those who do not believe

i. Joel 2:1-2 (NIV)

1 Blow the trumpet in Zion; sound the alarm on my holy hill. Let all who live in the land tremble, for the day of the LORD is coming. It is close at hand--

2 a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and blackness. Like dawn spreading across the mountains a large and mighty army comes, such as never was of old nor ever will be in ages to come.

ii. Joel 2:11 (NIV)

11 The LORD thunders at the head of his army; his forces are beyond number, and mighty are those who obey his command. The day of the LORD is great; it is dreadful. Who can endure it?

iii. Joel 2:12-13 (NIV)

12 'Even now,' declares the LORD, 'return to me with all your heart, with fasting and weeping and mourning.'

13 Rend your heart and not your garments. Return to the LORD your God, for he is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and abounding in love, and he relents from sending calamity.

IV. 3rd - The Assurance

A. **REFER v. 2:28:** ... *we may have confidence* ...

B. **REFER v. 2:29:** ... *you may be sure* ...

C. **REFER v. 3:10:** *By this it is evident* ...

D. It is knowing, with complete assurance and confidence – 100% satisfaction guaranteed, “take it to the bank”

E. As children of God through faith in Christ, His Son, as we practice *righteousness*, as He is righteous, we **HAVE** been born of God – no questions, if, and’s, or but’s

F. Another assurance, one many in this world just ignore – **REFER v. 3:8, 3:10**

V. 4th – The Acceptance

A. **REFER 3:1**: *See ...*; other translations, *Look* or *Behold* – same as saying “Need to pay close attention” or “Listen up” - what’s about to be said is extremely important and you need to hear it

B. ... *what kind [or manner] of love the Father has given to us ...*

C. God’s love for us is huge, marvelous, lavished – unexplainable

D. Reminds of reception the father of the prodigal son gave him when he returned home - Luke 15:20 (NIV)

20 ... "But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him.

i. Child or grandchild come up and do that to you; imagine that coming to us from our Heavenly Father

VI. 5th – The Anticipation

A. **REFER 3:2**: ... *we shall be like Him ... we shall see Him as He is*

B. This being “like Him” won’t be partly what WE are and partly what HE is – we’ll be LIKE Him

C. Don’t know exactly what that means but have sense enough to know that whatever we’ll become IT WILL BE GOOD

VII. 6th – The Accomplishment

A. **REFER 3:3**: ... *everyone who hopes in Him ... purifies himself ...*

B. Difference between *pure* and *perfect* – purification that leads to perfection

C. World’s idea of perfection – being flawless, without any form of defect

D. Bible’s idea of perfection – being complete, finished

E. That’s when our salvation through faith and trust in Jesus Christ for forgiveness of our sin will be made complete – as Jesus cried out on the cross His last words – *It is finished*

VIII. Close

A. For this purpose that Jesus went to the cross, shed His blood for us, so that we can be cleansed from all sin and become like Him – so that we can become children of God

B. Only those who are children of God, who belong to His family, who have been adopted by the King, that will be allowed to dwell in His presence for all eternity