

We Shall Behold Him!

March 17, 2024

1 John 2:28 – 3:3

²⁸ And now, dear children, continue in him, so that when he appears we may be confident and unashamed before him at his coming.

²⁹ If you know that he is righteous, you know that everyone who does what is right has been born of him (1Jn 2:28-29).

1. Remain **in** Christ to be *confident and unashamed* **before** Christ
2. **Doing** righteousness evidences the DNA of God (1Jn 3:7)

See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are! The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. ² Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when Christ appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is. ³ All who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure (1Jn 3:1-3).

3. The Father's amazing/wondrous/surprising **love**
He calls us "*children of God*" and that is what we are **!**
Those outside of Christ don't get Him or us (Jn 16:3)
Right now, in this **moment**, we are children of God
Then somehow, we will be more **blessed** (1Cor 13:12)

Jesus Christ will appear

We shall behold Him as He is

"not seeing him as he was in the days of his earthly ministry, nor seeing him with the eyes of faith, but seeing him as he now is in heavenly glory"

We shall be changed to be like Him

4. Our hope encourages **our** progress in Christlike purity
"only the blood of Jesus can cleanse us from the stain and guilt of sin (1Jn 1:7) but we have a part to play in purifying ourselves from its power"

On Your Own (better with others)

1. *agree/disagree*
If someone is not amazed at the love of God, then they are not a child of God.
2. READ Romans 9:33 (quoting Isaiah 28:16) and Romans 10:11 and Psalm 25:3. How can you live "confident and unashamed" before Christ at his appearing?
3. God demonstrates His love in redemption (Romans 5:8) and in relationship (1Jn 3:1). Which is more real to you—the love of God in saving you, or the love of God in calling you his child?
4. Do you have a favorite hymn, psalm or spiritual song that speaks to you about God's amazing love? Write the title below and look up the lyrics, or ask others to sing with you in praise!
5. READ 2 Chronicles 9:1-6 and Psalm 8 and Rev. 1:12-16. To see Jesus in all of His glory "as he is" is beyond anything we can think or imagine. Spend some time meditating on this.
6. Instant Christlikeness at Jesus' appearing (1Jn 3:2) is paired with progressive Christlikeness (1Jn 3:3) until then. How is this working out in your life? Does your hope encourage progress?