

1John 2:28–3:3

“Born Again to New Confidence, Nature, Status, Troubles, Hope, and Duty”

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What is new in the new birth? Pastor leads his family in tomorrow’s “Hopewell @Home” passage. 1John 2:28–3:3 prepares us for the opening portion of the public worship on the coming Lord’s Day. In these five verses of Sacred Scripture, we learn that we are born again to a new confidence that Jesus is ours, a new nature that is righteous like His, a new status of children adopted in love, new troubles of being rejected by those who reject the Lord, the new hope of Christ’s appearing and being like Him at it, and the new duty of purifying ourselves as He is pure.

Tuesday, May 4, 2021 ▫ Read 1John 2:28–3:3

Questions from the Scripture text: What does the apostle call them (v28)? Where does he tell them to dwell/abide/rest? What is Jesus going to do? What does the apostle want them to be able to do at Jesus’s coming? What do they know about Jesus (v29)? What then must they know about whomever has his birth from Him? What does he now command them to see (3:1)? Who has bestowed this love? In what particular gift—what are we and the apostle called? Who does not know us to be this? Why—Whom else does the world not know to be as He is? Now what does the apostle call his readers (v2)? What does he reaffirm about them and himself? What has not yet been revealed? Who will be revealed? What will we be like in that day? Why must this be so? In Whom do believers have this hope (v3)? What do such believers do? Unto what end/standard?

Next week’s Call to Worship, Prayer for Help, Song of Adoration, and Prayer of Confession all come from 1John 2:28–3:3, so that we will see that we are singing God’s thoughts after Him with *Blessed Are the Sons of God*.

New nature from a new birth. Jesus loved little children, and this apostle especially likes to use that term of endearment for the church as a whole (v28). In John’s mind, *every* baptism is a paedobaptism!

This is because when baptism is made effectual by saving faith, it testifies to a pouring out of the Spirit by which we get a new birth. And we can tell who has had this birth, because they are the only ones who from the heart love and seek to practice righteousness (v29). Let this put an end to the nonsense that we are naturally good. Practicing righteousness can only come from being born of Him!

New status from our new birth. This new nature comes with a new status: adopted child of God. Here is the greatest love-gift of any father that there has ever been. God has called us His children! The apostle commands us to behold this love (v1a). Not just know it. Consider it, marvel at it.

New difficulties from our new birth. So completely has God identified us with Himself, and begun a work in us of making us like Christ, that this makes “problems” for the Christian. We live in a world that refuses to acknowledge Him. So, we mustn’t expect that they will be glad to see His likeness in us or hear His name upon us (v1b).

New hope from our new birth. Just as the Spirit says through Paul (cf. Philip 1:6), so He says here through John: He who has begun the work will bring it to completion (v2). When Jesus is revealed, we will be like Him, and the final version of ourselves will then be revealed. This is a certainty.

New duty from our new birth. So, for the Christian, loving and obeying God’s law is more than just the obligation of the creature to the Creator, or of subjects to a King. For us, “purifying [my]self” (v3a) is learning to ply the family business and grow in the family resemblance. This is what Father and Son are working at by their Spirit, and it shall be done. And if we are in the family, then we will be doing it to—and that to the family standard: “just as He is pure” (v3b).

Our baptisms tell us to look to Father, Son, and Spirit for all of these—and that it is a sham to profess faith in Christ if we are not exhibiting a new nature of practicing righteousness, beholding love expressed in a new status of adoption, experiencing new difficulties from a world that denies our Father, enjoying the new hope of what we shall be at Christ’s return, and engaging in the new duty of purifying ourselves as He is pure.

What evidence of the new birth do you see in your life? How are you seeking them?

Suggested songs: ARP87 “The LORD’s Foundation” or TPH461 “Blessed Are the Sons of God”

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(The following is a machine-generated transcription. Please be aware of—and patient with—transcribing errors. If there is something confusing or obviously erroneous, you are invited to listen to the audio recording referenced above)

Now little children about him. That when he appears we may have confidence and not be ashamed before him. It is coming. If you know that he is righteous. You know that everyone who practices righteousness. Is born of him. Behold what manner of love? The father has bestowed on us.

That we should be called children of God. Therefore the world does not know us. Because it did not know him. Love now we are the children of God. And it has not yet been revealed what we shall be but we know that when he is revealed we shall be like him for we shall see him as he is.

And everyone who has this hope in him.Purifies himself, just as he is pure.

To further renew God's work.Also John.One of his favorite words their favorite ways of addressing the church as a whole.It's one of the ways that we see Jesus in the Gospel sometimes addressing individuals who are either believers or coming to faith he says and now little children.

Abide in him.You see a believer is not someone who is great but someone who is little and abides in someone who is great.And so and he says when he addresses us addresses us as little children.And he tells us that we are supposed to dwell remain in rest upon our Lord Jesus Christ.

In other words.Whereas John the baptizer.

Is known for that particular action this apostle. John here tells us that every Christian baptism.Is a paid electism.Or that it or every true Christian baptism.It is a paid a baptism wherever you actual is probably even a better word it of baptism is Christian baptism the word sacraments and prayer are made effectual to the elect for salvation.

So we're all little children and anyone who thinks that he's not a little child depending upon Jesus has not yet come to the biblical faith in which we rest upon Christ like children.And so we are those who are little children because we have been born of him there many things in this passage that have to do with the new birth with our status as children the whole men are above all us that we should be called children of thought that have to do with the fact that I believe or someone who knows himself to depend upon.

Jesus like a little bottle depends upon Jesus.So the first thing we have is the new confidence that we have from our new birth. Little children abide in him that when he appears we may have confidence.And not be ashamed before him and his coming.If you are trusting in Jesus, if you are abiding into this then when he appears who is the one who appears.

It's the one you've been trusting in. So when you've been abiding in it's the one who is your life and Christ who is our life appears.

So, this is the new confidence that we get from our Uber.If we are depending upon Jesus, like little children will be delighted when he appears.Like when I pull up in the back and Sophia sees my car and screams and the other daddy's own daddy's own daddy's home comes running out.

It's the one that she depends upon as a little child. As appeared she is glad to see him. So we will be with Christ if we depend upon him as little children.Those who hate him will not be glad when he appears.Those who serve him after a legal fashion and consider him.

Someone whom they're always trying to get back into the good graces with always trying to make favorable towards them again as if you could ever make him loved you from eternity. It gave himself for you. More favorable than that by the current level of your performance. It'll be a frightful thing for that for the Lord Jesus to appear because they will not be doing.

You will never get to the point where you are doing as well, as you need to be if that's what you think is what makes the favor a pleasure of Christ towards you.So if you depend upon his little child from your birth, you get a new confidence.Because he is the one in whom you abide and you will not be ashamed before him at your coming.

You also have a new nature from him. If you know that he is righteous, you know that everyone who practices righteousness is born of him.Or to put it in the logically equivalent statement.No one practices righteousness. Who is not born of him deposited? All have sinned and fallen short to the glory of God, and that's because we are born of Adam.

So everyone who practices sin is born of Adam.And we're still practicing.But if you get a new birth from Jesus, you get a new nature when you kill that old man, that is left over.In the morning.Here's ugly one way that you can come into practice any kind of righteousness.

So that preparation is in your hearing about you need to repent well enough at least or enough before you can believe in Jesus. What up bunch of rubbish? Because the right kind of being sorry can only come from Jesus. Isn't feeling sorry every year sin. A good and right thing.

Isn't it a righteous thing to respond to your sin that way and therefore we could never produce it from ourselves. It must come through saving. Jesus Christ.So we had not just a few confidence but we have this new nature that we get from Jesus from which even our grief and hatred of sin and our true sense of it and our apprehension of the mercy of God in Christ our whole purpose of you obedience are never after only those things coming from the new nature.

That you can only get from Jesus.And in every other of course good fault, they're feeling.Good work and action when they come from Jesus.So in these confidence of nature and new status behold what manner of love Father has bestowed on us that we should be called children of God.

So not only do we know ourselves to be like little children who must depend entirely upon the Lord Jesus but God formally adopts us. He declares that we are officially. His children. He does not do so grudgingly.He does not do so nearly as a legal transactional though, it is a legal transaction.

We come into the number of and have rights to all the privileges of the the sons of God in our adoption it is illegal action, but it's not merely illegal action. There's something he does especially in his love.He holds what matters of love the Father.And so when we see that we are legally adopted and called the children of God we're commanded here by the Holy Spirit using the end of the apostle to behold love in that legal status to behold our God as a father who is pleased to stick assistance children who cannot wait as to pour out all of his fatherly love and provision and protection take fatherly pleasure in us as his children.

It was love that produced the legal transaction.So there's that new confidence there is that in nature there is any status and then there's new

trouble. Remember the texts those have lost followers mothers brothers sisters houses and lands will reap the hundred fold follows brothers and other sisters. Missing their father's mother's brother sisters thousands and lands with.

Persecutions, right? And so here part of the privilege that we have as a children of God therefore the world does not know us because it did not know him just like we saw in the sermon yesterday that the Pharaoh did not know Joseph did not mean that he didn't know his history or they had amnesia but that he refused to acknowledge Joseph like possibly the next pharaoh or maybe the same whose getting on in years forty years.

Later or so in chapter five he says I do not know Yahweh it's not that he's never heard the name of Yahweh doesn't know the name of the God who's been called by that name and back into Genesis he's refusing with knowledge and well Romans one tells us that although everyone knows John.

Everyone can see the truth about him in the creation everyone has the knowledge of him putting their hearts by him. Although everyone knows God they push down they refuse to acknowledge them as God or give thanks says Romans chapter one well. The apostle here the spirit by the apostle here says therefore the world does not know us because it did not know him it's not saying that people is gonna say, what was your name again?

It's gonna be they're gonna refuse to acknowledge that you are being in Christ is a good thing. They're gonna refuse to acknowledge that you have the status as a child of living God and they're not gonna treat you with the honor that belongs to someone who has the status of a child of living God this of course ought to convict us when we deal with other Christians or we be treating them as those who are the adopted children of the creator and ruler of all that there is.

Of the holy holy holy and almighty God who is from everlasting to everlasting. Yes, they might be rather bourish and foolish what irritating and themselves. That if they are the adopted children of almighty God we ought to acknowledge their status and treat them in a way that is appropriate to their adoption.

If not then we'll be acting as this verse warns us the world will act towards us. So do not expect people to be delighted with the fact that you're becoming more like Jesus. They may be thankful to be treated well to be loved even though they're your enemies that you pray for their forgiveness the way Jesus prayed for the forgiveness of those whose recrucifying him but they will despise your allegiance to God and to his law you're refusal to approve of their sin.

Even your praying for their forgiveness, although they might enjoy being loved as enemies. They might hate that you think they need to even be forgiven and so the world will be full of those who refuse to acknowledge you and to hate you and reject you simply because you are the children of your father in heaven.

So you've got new confidence in him this is depending on him as little children in nature this ability to practice righteousness and his new bent within us for righteousness comes from him, we've got the new status. Of adopted about for which we are commanded in which we are commanded to hold his love cut the new problems, which is the world despising us.

We've got a new hope. Love now we are the children of God. And it is not yet been revealed what we found. But we know that when he is revealed we shall like him for we shall see him as he is. A new hope is to see Lord Jesus to see what the only begotten.

Son of God is like as the God man, we have the hope of his appearance. The eagerly awaits when all the problems that we have with our new troubles are gone.

There's that. Faces justic. Worship song on that we have viewed it's got the refrain all my problems are gone. Well, One day the devil was angels will be cast into the late fire. And our sins will have been eliminated. And will have had every tier wife for my eyes.

Death itself the last editing will be destroyed. There will be no illness no injury that will be a new heavens and a new earth will have not only perfected souls with glorified bodies. That day is the day of his appearing. And that is our new evolved. We are certain of it and we live therefore as this who are bending straining towards that day.

Is everyone it has this hopefully. Purifies himself, just as he is pure. So we have a new duty. Yes, we should have been God's law because he's our creator and we're his creature. Yes, we should have made Christ's law because he is our king and we are his own parents.

We also obey his law because one of the parts of our noodles is that we are going to be like in when he appears. And so we obey as the loving children of the perfectly loving heavenly father not of love for our father, and we obey as the loving siblings as it were of the Lord Jesus.

Who are eager to be like him the only begotten son as so many adopted brothers and sisters. And so this new duty that we have is a duty of love to the Father a duty of love to the son and even a duty of love to the Spirit whose pleasure it is to make us proper children of the Father proper reflections of and now workings of the Sun and so the Father the Son and the Spirit are in love combined in the work of making us like Christ.

And that of love to the Father we purify ourselves as Jesus is poor but love to the son we purify ourselves as Jesus is your Out of love to the Spirit with purify ourselves as Jesus is pure. And so the Lord gives us this way of thinking about what he has said about us in our baptism.

Lord marks you and his in Christian. Baptism your baptized in the name of the Father the Holy Spirit. You're declared to be a publicly acknowledgement formally adopted child of above. He declared to be publicly acknowledged normally incorporated member of the body of the sum. Here declared to be a publicly acknowledged temple for the Holy Spirit none of which you can be apart by the grace of God the Father in

the Son by the work of the Spirit.

But yet declared to be all those things we had to be for all those things and he himself is one who has our sufficiency for that duty. Everyone who has this hope in him as this new day here if I'm himself. Just as he is pure. So whether you're working on how you talk to your siblings or being diligent in your school or being respectful of and immediately and cheerful obedient to your mother.

Or making better choices and taking care of your soul your body or how you use your time or guarding your heart and mind not having covetous thoughts or hateful thoughts or lustful thoughts, whatever part of your sanctification you are growing in you have this love to father son and Holy Spirit set before you that comes from your new birth.

So in a new birth, we have new confidence we have new nature when you status have new problems. You hope and we have and you duty or at least a new way of knowing or thinking about our duty.

Father, thank you for. All of what we have just seen in this portion of your word, but even just now is when address you the command to behold your love. And we know Lord that you say even just a few paragraphs after what we have just read that. We love you because you first loved us that the doing of our duty comes from that love so that it all begins with what you have done and that for us in our response that begins with beholding what you have done and beholding the love in which you have done it.

And so we pray that your Holy Spirit would help us to remember what we have read and heard here about our new birth. Pray Lord free to my children that they would know the greatness of your love that has done all these things for them. That as they grow and understanding each of the different parts of the doctrine theology that we just thought about from the text.

That all of it would be for them the study of how you would love them. And so we pray that we would bring owner to your name our father who have put your name upon us to like let us be like Nathan said of David those who give cause for your enemies to watch the.

Pray that you would help us to delight to bring honor to your name and that if we are hated it would be by the same hatred with which of yours hate you. Please help us to pray in these things and Christine. And then.