

“When He Appears”
(1Jn 3:1-3)



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Recap of past study themes



Chapter 1:

- ❧ 1-4: Defends Christology
- ❧ 5-10: Reaffirms the Gospel

Chapter 2:

- ❧ 1-6: Reaffirms the necessity of our active participation in sanctification
- ❧ 7-11: Reaffirms the Old and New Commandment
- ❧ 12-14: Reveals divine truth for all seasons of life
- ❧ 15-17: Warn us not to love this world
- ❧ 18: Prophetic warning of antichrists, the Antichrist
- ❧ 19-24: Prophetic warning of the Great Apostasy
- ❧ 20-21: Reaffirms the anointing we received from God
- ❧ 22-29: Reaffirms the promises we received by that anointing

Overview of our passage



Theme: The purifying hope in seeing Jesus face-to-face

✧ 1Jn 3:1-3

Doctrine: The imminent appearance of Jesus Christ

Application: We are to purify our hearts in anticipation of seeing Jesus face-to-face

Scripture Reading



1 John 3:1-3 (NASB)

1 See how great a love the Father has bestowed on us, that we would be called children of God; and such we are. For this reason the world does not know us, because it did not know Him. 2 Beloved, now we are children of God, and it has not appeared as yet what we will be. We know that when He appears, we will be like Him, because we will see Him just as He is. 3 And everyone who has this hope fixed on Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.

Exposit: 1Jn 3:1



1 See how great a love the Father has bestowed on us, that we would be called children of God; and such we are. For this reason the world does not know us, because it did not know Him.

- ❧ Greek for 'great' is 'potapos' and it speaks of quality and origin
- ❧ 'love' is 'agapē'
- ❧ 'bestowed' is 'didōmi' which means to give, grant, poured out
- ❧ 'us' is the object and recipient of this potapos agapē poured out
- ❧ Paul said something similar...

Exposit: 1Jn 3:1



Romans 5:1-5

1 Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, 2 through whom also we have obtained our introduction by faith into this grace in which we stand; and we exult in hope of the glory of God. 3 And not only this, but we also exult in our tribulations, knowing that tribulation brings about perseverance; 4 and perseverance, proven character; and proven character, hope; 5 and hope does not disappoint, **because the love (agapē) of *God has been poured out within our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us.**

- ☞ *Which Person of the trinity? According to 1Jn 3:1, the Father!
- ☞ How did we receive this agapē? Through faith!
- ☞ Who is the deposit of this agapē? The Holy Spirit!
- ☞ Where is the this agape deposited? In our hearts!

Exposit: 1Jn 3:1



- ☞ John declares that believers received the highest quality and most noble of love that is from heaven
- ☞ "For this reason" the world does not know (ginōsko) us to be children of God
- ☞ Why? Because the world did not know (ginōsko) Him (the Father)
- ☞ Jesus spoke on this...

Exposit: 1Jn 3:1



Matthew 11:27

27 *All things have been handed over to Me by My Father; and no one knows (epiginōskō) the Son except the Father; nor does anyone know (epiginōskō) the Father except the Son, and anyone to whom the Son wills to reveal Him.

- ☞ “All things” in context is all authority in heaven/earth to judge, reveal, and save
- ☞ The reason the world does not know (ginōskō) God and we (believers) do is because the Father gave us to the Son, and the Son in turn revealed the Father to us!

Catarroja AMP: 1Jn 3:1



1 See how great [of highest quality and noble] a love the Father has bestowed [given, granted, and poured out] on us [in our hearts through faith], that we would be called children of God; and such we are. For this reason [because we received this love from heaven and not earth] the world does not know us, because it did not know Him [God who is from heaven].

Exposit: 1Jn 3:2



2 Beloved, now we are children of God, and it has not appeared as yet what we will be. We know that when He appears, we will be like Him, because we will see Him just as He is.

- ☞ We spoke on “beloved” in one of our past lessons
 - ☞ We’re not just loved by God, we are be-loved!
 - ☞ God chose to set His affection and love toward us who believe!
 - ☞ This agapē love is perfect, eternal, noble
- ☞ “now we are” is in the present tense
 - ☞ We’re not going to be God’s children, we are currently God’s children!
- ☞ “it has not appeared”
 - ☞ What is “it” referring to? [we’ll answer that shortly]
- ☞ “when He appears” [we’ll look into this further as well]
 - ☞ “we will be like Him”
 - ☞ “we will see Him just as He is”

“it has not appeared”



- ☞ ‘appeared’ is ‘phaneroō’ which means to be made visible, clear
- ☞ There are some presuppositions that “it” is referring to salvation or Jesus
 - ☞ Both is not correct
- ☞ In context “it” is referring to the world knowing (ginōskō) us as God’s children
 - ☞ This is connected to the return of Jesus (more on this later)

John touches on this in Revelation and in his letter to the church of Philadelphia...

“it has not appeared”



Revelation 3:9

Behold, I will cause those of the synagogue of Satan, who say that they are Jews and are not, but lie – I will make them come and bow down at your feet, **and make them know (ginōskō)** that I have loved (agapaō) you.

TRUTH: The world presently does not know that we are God’s children, but at the end of the age, they will all know we are God’s children, especially the Jews, who will bow down at our feet and acknowledge that we are God’s **beloved** children!

“when He appears”



- ❧ “when He appears” is future-tense
- ❧ Again ‘appears’ is ‘phaneroō’ which means to be made visible, clear
- ❧ Who is “He” that will appear in the future?
 - ❧ The context of v.1 tells us it’s: the Father
 - 1 See how great a love the Father has bestowed on us, that we would be called children of God; and such we are.
 - ❧ But, in v. 5 and 8, John speaks of Jesus having appeared in the past
 - 5 You know that He (Jesus) appeared in order to take away sins; and in Him (Jesus) there is no sin....
 - 8 the one who practices sin is of the devil; for the devil has sinned from the beginning. The Son of God appeared for this purpose, to destroy the works of the devil.
- ❧ This is an example of a “paradox” in Scripture...

“when He appears”



- ❧ John intertwines the appearances of both the Father and the Son
- ❧ Another example of a paradox in Scripture:
 - ❧ When Philip asked Jesus to show them the Father in Jn 14...

“when He appears”



John 14:1-15

1 “Do not let your heart be troubled; believe in God, believe also in Me. 2 In My Father’s house are many dwelling places; if it were not so, I would have told you; for I go to prepare a place for you. 3 If I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself, that where I am, there you may be also. 4 And you know the way where I am going.” 5 Thomas *said to Him, “Lord, we do not know where You are going, how do we know the way?” 6 Jesus *said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me.

“when He appears”



John 14:1-15 (cont'd)

7 If you had known Me, you would have known My Father also; **from now on you know Him (the Father), and have seen Him (the Father).** 8 Philip *said to Him, “Lord, show us the Father, and it is enough for us.” 9 Jesus *said to him, “Have I been so long with you, and yet you have not come to know Me, Philip? **He who has seen Me has seen the Father;** how can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? 10 **Do you not believe that I am in the Father, and the Father is in Me?** The words that I say to you I do not speak on My own initiative, but the Father abiding in Me does His works. 11 **Believe Me that I am in the Father and the Father is in Me;** otherwise believe because of the works themselves. 12 Truly, truly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do, he will do also; and greater works than these he will do; because I go to the Father. 13 Whatever you ask in My name, that will I do, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. 14 If you ask Me anything in My name, I will do it.

15 “If you love Me, you will keep My commandments.

“when He appears”



- ❧ The paradox is seeing Jesus is seeing the Father
 - ❧ Although the Son is not the Father
 - ❧ Although the Father is not the Son
- ❧ The paradox is the works of Jesus is the works of the Father
 - ❧ Although it is Jesus who is performing the work, the Father is in Him

So the paradox in 1Jn 3:2 is when John says “when He appears” ...

“when He appears”



- ❧ He is referring to:
 - ❧ When Jesus makes an appearance, the Father makes an appearance!
 - ❧ When the Father makes an appearance, the Son makes an appearance!
- ❧ Ok so which Person of the Trinity is John referring to?
 - ❧ Amen! Yes! Both! Take your pick!
- ❧ SPOILER: God the Father will make a cameo appearance during the day of the Lord and after the millennium too!
- ❧ But for now, let's briefly look at the *future* appearances of Jesus and figure out which one John is referring to here in 1Jn 3:2...

“when He appears”



- ❧ Jesus will have several future “appearances”:
 - ❧ Coming in the clouds (every eye will see Him)
 - ❧ 6th Seal in Revelation
 - ❧ On Mount Zion (with the 144K Jews)
 - ❧ 7th Trumpet in Revelation
 - ❧ Sitting on a white cloud (Rapture)
 - ❧ 7th Trumpet in Revelation
 - ❧ Sitting on a white horse (marriage supper of the Lamb)
 - ❧ 7th Seal in revelation
 - ❧ Sitting on David’s throne (rule the nations)
 - ❧ Millennial kingdom
- ❧ So which of these appearances is John referring to in 1Jn 3:2?

“when He appears”



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 - ❧ Coming in the clouds (every eye will see Him)
 - ❧ 6th Seal in Revelation
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 - ❧ Millennial kingdom

“when He appears”



- ❧ Why the rapture appearance?
 - ❧ Because only in our glorified state can we be made like Him, that is, share in His likeness!
 - ❧ Because only in our glorified state, can we truly see Jesus in all His glory and not be condemned!

Catarroja AMP: 1Jn 3:2



2 Beloved, (know) now we are (presently) children of God, and it (the fact that we are God's children) has not appeared (and made visible to the world) as yet what we will be (the beloved children of God will be known to all). We know that when He (Jesus) appears (and raptures us to meet Him in the air), we will be (glorified and made) like Him (Jesus), (and) because (we will be glorified) we will (also be able to) see Him (Jesus and take upon His likeness) just as He (Jesus) is (pure, holy, and blameless).

Exposit: 1Jn 3:3



3 And everyone who has this hope fixed on Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.

- ☞ “everyone” → all believers from all time
- ☞ “this hope” → seeing Jesus and being made like Him
- ☞ “purifies himself” (more on this)
- ☞ “just as He is pure” (more on this)

“purifies himself”



- ❧ 'purifies' is 'hagnizō' from root 'hagnos' means to cleanse or purify and has ceremonial washings connotations
- ❧ James and Peter says something similar in their use 'hagnizō' ...

“purifies himself”



James 4:8

8 Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify (hagnizō) your hearts, you double-minded.

☞ In context the way we purify our hearts is by

- ☞ Submitting to God
- ☞ Resisting the devil
- ☞ Being humble

1 Peter 1:22-23

22 Since you have in obedience to the truth purified (hagnizō) your souls for a sincere love of the brethren, fervently love one another from the heart, 23 for you have been born again not of seed which is perishable but imperishable, that is, through the living and enduring word of God.

☞ In context the way we purify our hearts is by

- ☞ Obeying the truth (Scripture)
- ☞ Loving Christians

☞ Now back to our verse 1Jn 3:3...

Exposit: 1Jn 3:3



3 And everyone who has this hope fixed on Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.

- ✧ John says we are purified (ceremonially cleansed) when we set our hope on the appearing of Jesus and us seeing Him!
- ✧ James says we are purified (ceremonially cleansed) when we submit to God (His Word), resist the devil, and approach God with a humble heart
- ✧ Peter says we are purified (ceremonially cleansed) when we obey the truth (God's Word) and love fellow Christians

Application



- ❧ We are to live in expectation and anticipation of when Jesus appears to us face to face!
- ❧ The way we are to ready ourselves is by purifying our hearts!
- ❧ We purify our hearts by:
 - ❧ Longing for His appearing, and in the meantime:
 - ❧ Submitting to God's Word
 - ❧ Resisting the devil and our flesh
 - ❧ Being humble towards God and others (Phi 2)
 - ❧ Demonstrating love to fellow Christians