

1 John
(Lesson 8)

Introduction:

1. In this lesson we are examining the information presented in 1 John 3:1-3.
2. According to 1 John 2:21, John wrote this letter to Christians who knew the truth.
3. Unfortunately, the influence of "*antichrists*" [people who denied that Jesus is the Christ and that He came in the flesh] made it necessary for John to write this letter.
4. As John confronted the influence of antichrists, he dealt with a number of important principles that relate to having fellowship with God.
5. Please note two of the conditions for having fellowship with God:
 - a. keeping God's commandments (2:3)
 - b. practicing righteousness (2:29).
6. While we must keep God's commandments and practice righteousness, we are taught in 1 John 3:1-3 that having fellowship with God is not based on our own righteousness.
7. We must avoid the trap that the Pharisees fell into (Luke 18:9-14).
 - a. The Pharisee based his relationship with God on his own righteousness.
 - b. The publican based his relationship with God on God's mercy.
8. With these thoughts in mind, let us turn our attention to 1 John 3:1-3.

Discussion:

- I. THE MAIN POINT MADE IN VS.1 IS THAT WE ARE ABLE TO BE CALLED GOD'S CHILDREN BECAUSE OF HIS LOVE
 - A. In this verse John emphasized the fact that God has bestowed His love upon us.
 - B. We learn from other verses how God has bestowed His love upon us.
 1. 1 John 3:16; 4:9-10
 2. Romans 5:8
 - C. According to John 1:11-13, Jesus gives us the power to become God's children when we are born of God.
 - D. The world does not recognize the relationship that Christians have with God.
 1. The problem is that the world does not know God (see John 17:25).
 2. This should help us understand why Christians must not love the world (1 John 2:15).
 3. Also, we know what will happen to the world (1 John 2:17).
 - E. After emphasizing the fact that we are able to called God's children because of His great love, John continued by showing that . . .
- II. GOD'S CHILDREN HAVE A SPECIAL HOPE IN VS.2
 - A. John first stated that Christians are God's children "*now.*"
 - B. However, even though we are God's children now, we do not know "*what we shall be.*"
 - C. We understand from 1 Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-44 that the resurrected body will be a spiritual body that pleases God.
 - D. Our special hope is being like Christ when He returns (see Philippians 3:20-21).
 - E. Seeing Jesus when He returns will be a great blessing.
 - F. Let us remember the admonition given in 1 John 2:28 to "*abide in him.*"
 - G. God's children have the special hope of seeing Christ and being like Christ when He returns.
- III. JOHN DISCUSSED THE EFFECT OF THIS HOPE IN VS.3
 - A. The hope of seeing Jesus when He returns and being like Him leads us to purify ourselves.
 - B. We are to purify ourselves "*as he [the Lord] is pure.*"
 - C. How do we purify ourselves?
 1. We begin by purifying our hearts (Matthew 5:8).
 - a. This involves confessing our sins (1 John 1:9).
 - b. By walking in the light we continue to be purified (1 John 1:7).
 2. We must separate ourselves from unclean things (2 Corinthians 6:17-7:1).