

I John 3:1-3

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.”

Last week we discussed I Peter 1:14-16 in which God calls His people to holiness saying: “Like the Holy One who called you, be holy yourselves also in all your behavior; because it is written, “You shall be holy, for I am holy.”

In today’s passage--I John, chapter 3--we receive insight as to how we can become pure, or holy, as God Himself--in the person of Jesus--is, and was, pure. Verse 3 states: “And everyone who has this hope fixed on Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.”

Notice that according to God’s own Word, any Christian who fixes, or focuses, his hope on Jesus--quote “purifies himself, just as He is pure.”

This hope which we are to focus on is specifically referred to as the return of Christ and our becoming like Him. Verse 2 of I John, chapter 3 says it this way: “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.”

Romans 8:23 refers to this hope of what we will be as “the redemption of the body.” This hope, of course, has everything to do with faith, for this hope is the conviction of something which cannot be seen or apprehended until that day; the day Jesus returns for us.

Now just exactly how this purification process really works--that by

focusing on the return of Jesus and the redemption of our bodies, we are enabled somehow to purify our lives even to the extent that Jesus did when He had a fleshly body--is a mystery. I, for one, don't claim to understand it. It is like a farmer who plants seed in the ground--how the seed germinates and grows into a plant--the farmer, and even the scientists, don't really understand how it happens. But we know it does, because the Creator made it this way.

So it is with the New Testament purification process for the Christian. How the Christian purifies himself, he really doesn't understand, but the tangible effects in his life are clearly seen by others, by God, and by the person himself over time.

This is the power faith: to obey God; in this case to set our minds on the return of Christ and what He has promised for us, and then realize the results.

Jesus once said in John 6:29, "This the work of God, that you believe in Him whom He has sent." Do you believe in Jesus? Do you have your hope fixed on His return? Then your life will show it. You will become holy, even as God is holy. And you will be pure as Jesus is pure. God said it, so it must be so.