

1 John

Dr. Charles "Buddy" Parrish

May 12, 2021



1 John 3:1-3

Vs. 1

- Do you know this wonderful hymn by Stuart Townsend?
“How deep the Father’s love for us,
How vast beyond all measure,
That He should give His only Son
To make a wretch His treasure.”
- God does not love us because we are perfect. “...all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God” (Romans 3:23). John himself said in here in 1:8, “If we say we have no sin, we are deceiving ourselves and the truth is not in us.” God has brought us into His family purely out of His amazing grace, His great mercy, and His deep, deep love. There is absolutely no room for any of us to feel self-righteous or that we are better than anyone else. In Luke 13:1-3 some to gathered to hear Jesus were speaking about some Galileans who had suffered a terrible fate at the hands of Pontius Pilate. Jesus replied, “Do you suppose that these Galileans were greater sinner than all other Galileans because they suffered this fate? I tell you no, but unless you repent you will all likewise perish.” If we are anything at all, if there is any goodness in us, it is because God loves us.
“I will not boast in anything
No gifts, no power, no wisdom
But I will boast in Jesus Christ
His death and resurrection”
- And so we are called the Children of God, because He has chosen us, taken us in to His family. But John wants to be clear. It’s not simply that we are *called* the Children of God, we actually and truly *are* the Children of God.

Someone has said that by birth we are *creatures* of God, but that it is only by His grace that we become *children* of God! (Romans 8:14-17).

- Yet, if there are great benefits to be children of God, there will also be pain, pain from the same people who seek to inflict pain on Him. In Matthew 10:22, Jesus says, “You will be hated by all because of My name...” and in John 15:18, the Lord again tells us, “If the world hates you, you know that it has hated Me before it hated you.” At the beginning of Acts 4 Peter and John are arrested for merely preaching in the name of Jesus. And so it goes to this very day.

Vs. 2

- If there are troubles, there are also even greater benefits. John here is thinking of the Second Coming, of life after this life. What will the life to be like? What will we be like? Part of the symbolism of the veil of the Temple being torn in two at the crucifixion is the idea of one day being able to look behind and beyond the ultimate veil, the veil of death. We don't know what we shall be like, but Paradise has GOT to be amazing.
- We do know that when Christ does return that we will be changed (1 Cor. 15:51-52.) And like Jesus at His resurrection, we will take off perishable bodies and put on imperishable bodies, bodies fit for eternity. Therefore, we will be like Christ. But His gifts go even further. Jesus said in the Sermon on the Mount (Matt. 5:8) that only the pure in heart shall see God. But how does one have such a pure heart? This too is a gift of God. When we are adopted, when we begin a new life, He gives us a new heart, a pure heart, and we shall behold Him.

Vs. 3

- I am always amazed at the stories of the young Olympic skaters and gymnasts. Some are still high school age, yet they are among the best in the world at their craft. Unlike other kids their age they are often on the ice or in the gym as early as 4:00 AM. They are not going out till all hours of the night and eating and drinking all the wrong things. They live very, very

disciplined lives all for the purpose of being able to compete at the Olympics when they have that opportunity. This is the kind of thing John is speaking to here, the same kind that Paul points to in 1 Cor. 9:25-27. The athlete is *fixed* on the prize. We are also to be so focused to be able to receive the imperishable prize.

- The verb tense here is present tense. Our change is *not* to happen only beyond this life. The change in us is present tense. The Father is molding us and shaping us now, making us ready for the life, the change, to come. And we join with Him by keeping our hope fixed on Him and being intentional about purifying ourselves. On our own we will fail, but with God, working with Him, all things are possible. So the verb is present tense. We keep on purifying ourselves. This process known as sanctification IS a process. The purifying does not typically happen overnight. It's a process. Paul likened it to the growth of a person. As a baby you start out with milk, but soon you move on to meat. It's a process as God moves us toward where He wants us to be, to become what He deeply desires that we be.