

HHBC



1st John 3: 2& 3

MARKS of the Child of God, part II



I John 3: 2,3

2 Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when He shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see Him as he is.

3 And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as He is pure.



1st John 3: 2,3

W.W. Fereday:

JOHN 3: is God's love to the world

EPH. 5: Christ's love to the Church

1 JOHN 3: God's love to His children begotten of Him



1st John 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.

Beloved:

multiple uses of *agapētos* by John; worthy, esteemed, we the recipients of agape love; review from previous lessons: we are beloved **of God**;

Now we are the children of God:

Recall last week's 3:1: **'that we would be called children of God; and such we are'**: *and such we are* is to emphasize the present status quo fact that we are sons of God. Greek; has no underlines or italic bold conventions to emphasize a point like in English, Greek does the equivalent of underlining by *repetition*, as in Verse 2

Roger, along with Wuest, noted last week that we continuously and permanently exist in the state of children of God, by name and by character....

- John: is transitioning the broad theme of the epistle from **'God is Light'** (1:1- 2:2) and living in God's light (2:3-29); to the 2nd theme: **'God is Love'** (3:1 – 3:24) and living / walking in God's love as children (chap. 4) [Ironsides' outline]



1st John 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.

And it has not appeared as yet:

Appeared = *phaneroō* ; to make visible (to the eye) physically, or make actual, realized. Perhaps: to see the actual reality of it with the physical eye. The phrase is aorist point fact; and passive voice; indicative mood (an assertion of certainty)

What we will be:

This is the KEY phrase of the verse; what will we be? Greek: *esomai* or *eimi*; future tense; middle voice; indicative mood: “I will be” this thing in my future. It will be my reality.... Remember this phrase for later in this study....

This part of the verse is meant to bring us to an eager anticipation of what we will be. Or laden question, quite mysterious, ***what is this thing we are going to be?*** The middle voice has us personally involved in this thing yet future...



1st John 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 know that when He appears:

KJV: has “but” we know, other translations has “for we know”. ‘But’ is a good conjunction to have.

Appears: is ***phaneroō*** once again; to be made manifest; visible with the eye

Know: is absolute (intrinsic) knowledge, ***oida***, not come to by reason of learning or deduction; Wuest says it’s a general truth of our future state, a promise, known by our consciousness of being His child (as opposed to *ginosko* knowledge)

Important Caveat: both McCalley and Wuest translate this ***“and it has not appeared as yet what we will be, but we know that when it appears, we will be like Him”***

What is the ‘it’? It lays stress on the “WHAT WE WILL BE” Bengel: the ‘what’ suggests something unspeakable, contained in the likeness of God

There has been no visible example of the ‘what we shall be: on earth to show us this future glorious state (McCalley)

The “IT” has not yet appeared, but “IT” will be a future certain REALITY for us. . . So what is the “IT”?



1st John 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 will be LIKE Him:

Like = **homoios**, adj. You can see *homogenous* in this word; but also similarity (J.B. Stoney: **similitude**);

VERY IMPORTANT QUESTION: on this day, which is pinned down to the ‘coming’ **parousia** of the Lord— on the day of the Rapture (1 Jn 2:28); Question: Will we be like Him physically **and** spiritually? Or only physically with a transformed body? What about fully conformed to His image spiritually?

because we will see Him just as He is

because: **hoti** - the conjunction.... For the fact that-

We will **see**: **horaō** = we will see with the eyes; be acquainted with by our real, yet future, experience: middle: indicative asserted fact, and it’s me, in the 1st person, I will **horaō**, you will **horaō** this experience!

One may daydream a great deal about 3:2, I spent the study time imagining it in my mind, daydreaming about it

- Deep thought: by the act of seeing Him do we become like Him physically? Or: does He transform our body to a transformed, eternal one in an instant, on our way up to meet Him— so that when we see Him we are already changed?



1st John 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.

THE ULTIMATE KEY to this verse is: (here is what the ‘it’ is)

For our citizenship is in heaven, from which also we eagerly wait for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ; who will transform the body of our humble state into conformity with the body of His glory, by the exertion of the power that He has even to subject all things to Himself.

[Phil 3:20-21]

- Our ***politeuma*** is in heaven; our polity, or ‘rule or order of the city or state to which we belong’ (JBS)
- We wait here in a foreign land eagerly to be extracted from this (hellish?) place where we groan in decaying, corruptible bodies
- Transform: ***metaschēmatizō*** - To change
- Conformity: ***symmorphos***; here we have J.B. Stoney’s word for similitude
- The body we receive in 1 Jn 3:2 is similar to; molded on “the body of His glory”
- It is an imperishable body, not perishable; not in dishonor; but in power and glory (I Cor. 15:42-44)
- By Christ’s personal energetic, powerful working- it’s going to take an unfathomable amount of power!



1st John 3: 3

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

HOPE: *elpis*- favorable and confident expectation in an (a.) unseen thing, (b.) yet future thing (Vine); and/or: absolute certainty of future or unseen Things of God/Christ (H. Molloy)

PURIFIES: the verb *hagnizō*, active voice, indicative mood. The act of cleansing from defilement, as in the O.T. ceremonial settings...

PURE: the adjective *hagnos*, being free from defilement, not contaminated, same root as ‘Holy’

- Alford: not to be taken as a man can purify himself (*for apart from me you can do nothing... Jn 15:5*), but hope resting on Christ, and the hope of being like Him, changed by Him physically arouses our desire to be free from defilements of the flesh and spirit, like He is.
- Interesting Point from Wuest: God is called *hagios* (Holy) but never *hagnos* (Pure). Christ is *hagnos* (pure) because of His human experience. [His absolute perfect sinless, cleansed undefiled life attained while on earth during His lifetime]
- “Just as” *kathōs* (from *kata*- according to the standard of.... Christ’s purity)
- ‘He is pure’: Christ is pure, just like ‘God is Love’, ‘God is Holy’ or ‘*I am He*’; a status quo essence verbal phrase; while it is true Christ is Holy by essence, He is pure by attainment— He earned it here on earth by His sinless life
- Does Vs. 3 seem to be all the more clear by rendering it with 3:2 this way?:

“.... *“We know that when He appears, we will be like Him, because we will see Him just as He is,” and (because) “everyone who has this hope fixed on Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.”*”

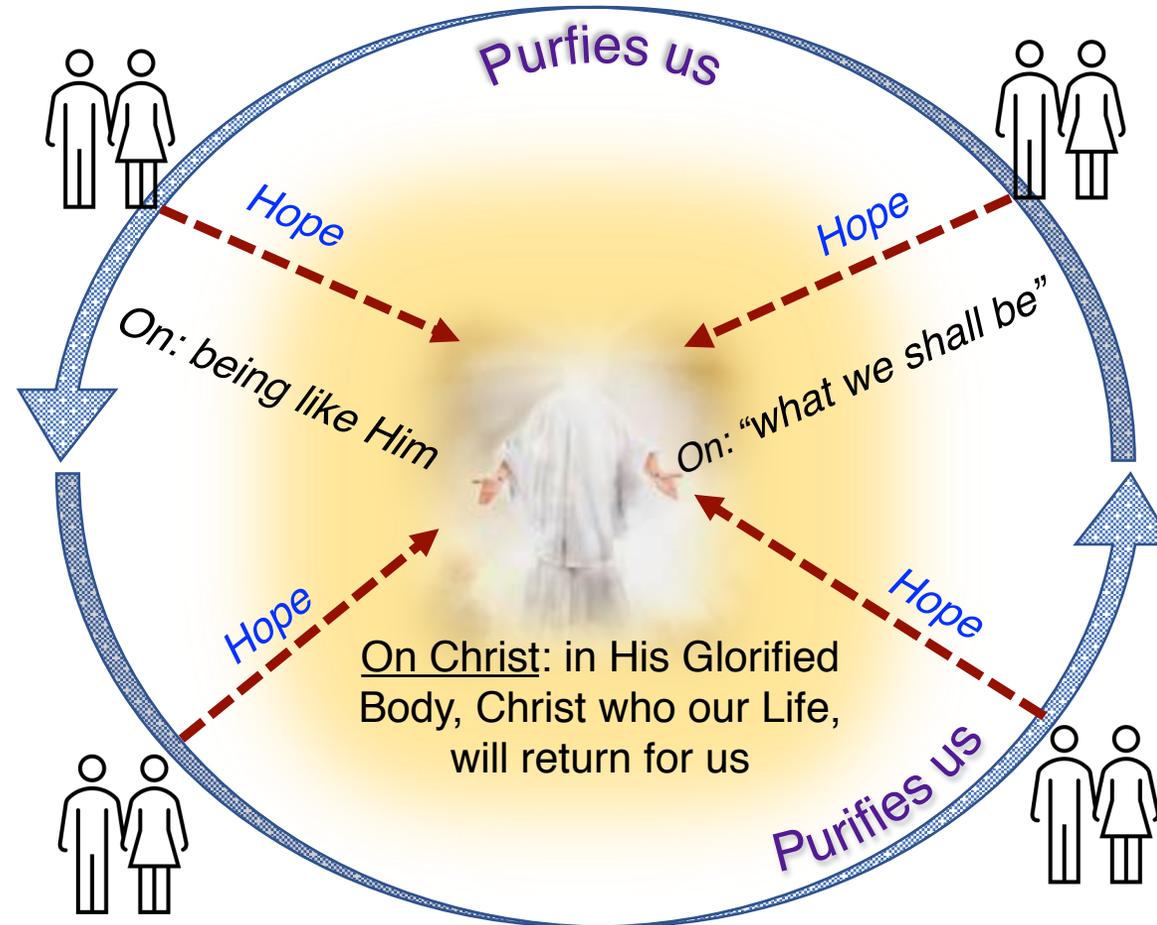


1st John 3: 2-3

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

When Christ, who is our life, is revealed, then you also will be revealed with Him in glory.

[Col. 3:4]





1st John 3: 2- 3

Last Thoughts . . .

- 1 John 3:2 is an aspirational verse that is our certain future, it is physical and not spiritual (Wuest)
- II Cor. 3:18 & Eph. 3:1 (blessed with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places) say that we have all spiritual assets right now on earth; and we grow in grace in the knowledge of all of those spiritual blessings. We do not lack now for things spiritual. . . .
- When we are caught up to meet Him in the air we are fully conformed to Him physically and clothed for eternity, but we continue on into eternity being conformed to His image spiritually- for tens of thousands of trillions of years....
- J.B. Stoney: we look for Him not to settle things here (He certainly will though do that); but to change our body of humiliation into a body that suits us for eternity, and suits us **for** Him. We are looking to be clothed with our house which is from Heaven.
- For the consummation of the event described in 1 John 3:2, we groan in anticipation; we will have a body that is (1) divine in origin, (2) eternal in duration, (3) heavenly in adaptation. Our hope is in our total glorification [II Cor. 5:1-2] ([M. Doyle, 2 Cor. 5:1-4 Notes](#); hollyhillsbiblechurch.org, 3.3.22)
- J.B. Stoney: Like a conquering general taking control of his besieged home city (politeuma) He will first release his own family from prison, *'I must release my own family first.'* The very first expression of His power in the Day of Christ is the resurrection of His own.