



**“Hoping in God”**  
**Wk. 6 Hoping in God - 1 John 2:28-3:3**  
**By Pastor Jody May**

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**1 John 2:28-3:3 ESV**

**Children of God**

<sup>28</sup> And now, little children, abide in him, so that when he appears we may have confidence and not shrink from him in shame at his coming. <sup>29</sup> If you know that he is righteous, you may be sure that everyone who practices righteousness has been born of him.

<sup>3</sup> See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are. The reason why the world does not know us is that it did not know him. <sup>2</sup> Beloved, we are God’s children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is. <sup>3</sup> And everyone who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure.

**REVIEW:**

**LIGHT & LOVE**

**1<sup>st</sup> – Light** – Truth that stems from Christ and is sustained in Fellowship with each other.

**2<sup>nd</sup> – Love** - Treasuring God and how we value each other.

**INTRODUCTION:**

*“Hoping in God”* is the title of our sermon today and that’s a good place to start because I don’t know about you but a good shot of HOPE in the arm would do us better than the COVID vaccine. The COVID vaccine may lessen your symptoms, but HOPE will deliver your soul.

The Bible describes Hope as an **essential part** of the believer’s life because it is what makes **you endure to the end** and God wants His people to live with HOPE:

**Jeremiah 29:11 ESV**

For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a **hope**.



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God wants His people to live with Hope. He has planned for you to get it, because it is how His people are to endure to the end as Paul points out:

**Romans 8:23-24 ESV**

**<sup>23</sup> Not only so, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption to sonship, the redemption of our bodies. <sup>24</sup> For in this hope we were saved.**

We are saved by hoping through faith believing we will be changed and acquire all the benefits of our Salvation. We are to look forward to getting it all, and be encouraged by it, that’s what Hope does for us!

Today that’s exactly what you and I need. If every morning we were to wake up and have to rely on our emotions to get us through the day every day, then what you will spend your day figuring out are ways to mask how you feel because living by your feelings will fail you every time!

That’s why so many of us love this time of year because it gives us something to look forward to, **football!** But what many of us discover is that we also dread it BECAUSE we know at some point our team will let us down! Then when Monday morning comes around the only Hope you have is waiting for the next weekend and perhaps you can get your next shot of emotion in the arm. BTW that’s what we do with life, we come at it looking for what we can get out of it instead of looking ahead to a future life and letting that be our hope.

John points out to us today, as way of encouragement for the church, another benefit of living in the light and that is the **Hope you gain from thinking on Jesus and your soon to be future.** He said in verse 3 today of our reading:

**<sup>3</sup> And everyone who thus hopes in him...**

Meaning, hope was just defined for you (everyone) in v. 28-3:2; that Hope is your shot that vaccinates you from despair, that lessens the symptoms of earthly emotional distress, and protects your soul from eternal damnation!

Here’s the key to today’s text **Main Point:**



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**Hope is gained and solidified by abiding in Christ.**

Today we have 4 ways that Hope is gained, and the last point is how we solidify it or protect it, maybe we will call it the booster shot if you will.

**1. We gain Hope by thinking on His return. (v.28)**

<sup>28</sup> And now, little children, **abide** in him, so that when he appears we may have confidence and not shrink from him in shame at his coming.

**Abide what does that mean?**

μένω (*menō*). vb. **remain, stay (i.e., lodge) with**. Similar to English “stay,” *menō* is sometimes used as a **simple expression for dwelling in an abode or sharing quarters** (e.g., John 1:39; 8:35; 10:40; 11:54; Acts 28:16). The word is particularly common in the writings of the Apostle John, who exploits the **metaphorical dimension of dwelling and of hospitality to describe the relationship of the believer to Christ** (John 6:56; 15:4–7; see also John 1:38–39) and to the Spirit (John 14:17), as well as the Son’s relationship to the Father (John 14:10; 15:10).<sup>1</sup>

**There are a few things I want to point out that the Apostle John wants us to practice abiding in:**

**Living in the fact that Jesus is **resurrected**, and He is **glorified!** ([Wk. 117 of The Gospel According to Luke](#))**

**Luke 24:26-39 ESV**

<sup>36</sup> As they were talking about these things, Jesus himself stood among them, and said to them, “Peace to you!” <sup>37</sup> But they were startled and frightened and thought they saw a spirit. <sup>38</sup> And he said to them, “Why are you troubled, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? <sup>39</sup> See my hands and my feet, that it is I myself. Touch me, and see. For a spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have.”

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<sup>1</sup> Anderson, G. P. (2014). [Hospitality](#). D. Mangum, D. R. Brown, R. Klippenstein, & R. Hurst (Eds.), *Lexham Theological Wordbook*. Bellingham, WA: Lexham Press.



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**This second image is to remind you of how He returns in Glory!**

**Revelation 19:11-16 ESV**

**The Rider on a White Horse**

<sup>11</sup> Then I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse! The one sitting on it is called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he judges and makes war. <sup>12</sup> His eyes are like a flame of fire, and on his head are many diadems, and he has a name written that no one knows but himself. <sup>13</sup> He is clothed in a robe dipped in blood, and the name by which he is called is The Word of God. <sup>14</sup> And the armies of heaven, arrayed in fine linen, white and pure, were following him on white horses. <sup>15</sup> From his mouth comes a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations, and he will rule them with a rod of iron. He will tread the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God the Almighty. <sup>16</sup> On his robe and on his thigh he has a name written, King of kings and Lord of lords.

So, this Jesus we all are to live with this Jesus in our minds, when we pray it is to this Jesus we are praying, when we obey His Words it is this man's words we are obeying. There is nothing feminine, nothing tame, nothing lowly only unleashed power. When Paul experienced this Jesus in Acts he was blinded, and his heart broke, and he called Him Lord at their first meeting. **This Jesus commands He doesn't ask.** That's why a 'No' to surrendering to Him is answered with Hell, no one gets a choice of whether to bow a knee or not.

We are to abide, to live in the knowledge and presence of this Jesus so that when He returns, we can stand in front of Him confidently. **Hope is gained when we rightly perceive His resurrection, His glory, and His return.**

Hope is gained from thinking about that day! We think about our meeting with Him, we think about what He would think of us, we think about how we want His praise, and that picture is to give the believer the Hope they need to live. When Hope is having that type of effect in you it will begin to show up in your life, you will start to get healthy...

**2. We gain Hope when we perceive our sanctification. (v.29)**

<sup>29</sup> If you know that he is righteous, you may be sure that everyone who practices righteousness has been born of him.



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**A. Explanation:**

When you understand (by abiding in Him) that Jesus is righteous, you celebrate that He has been found worthy, and your life reflects appreciation for what Jesus has done.

Hope is gained when you get that Jesus has been found righteous, which is the requirement deemed necessary to stand before God. ([Jer. 33:16](#))

Hope is gained when you understand His righteousness was based in the law and the law had only brought you death. ([2 Cor. 3:6](#))

Hope is gained when you get that He shares that righteousness with you, ([2 Corinthians 5:21](#))

Hope is gained and begins to solidify when we by Faith believe He is righteous, it is shared with us, and we then begin to imitate and walk in the light as Jesus did. ([Eph. 5:1-8](#)). **We are not replacers BUT imitators!** (Read Eph. 5:1-2)

**Argumentation:**

Imitating Christ means I am worshipping Him, **BUT - trying to replace Him means I worship myself.** The people in John’s Day were fighting against the standards set in the Bible so they could change the testing to replace the high marks for Christ for the common core of man. No one gets into heaven based on dummying down or lessening the standards in scripture! But I can be guaranteed entrance into eternal life when I totally accept Jesus’ High marks as my own and in my life demonstrates my work at trying to be like Him.

We gain Hope by living out, rejoicing, benefitting from, perceiving that our sanctification means I was saved, I am being saved, and one day I will be like Him, and it brings God joy and me eternal satisfaction.

The problem is though the world hates for us to be happy in God! They don’t want you to feel that way, it makes the world feel bad that we feel good about our standing with God in Christ. When the world is all about feelings and see you not caring about political correctness, not accepting how they define living, they will attack! But even that is something you can gain Hope from!



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**3. We gain Hope from the World’s rejection and confusion. (v.3:1)**

**3** See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should **be called children of God**; and so we are. The reason why the world does not know us is that it did not know him.

Before going any further John stops us with a word of clarification – **See!** That word in the Greek means more than just a mere mental understanding, it means **EXPERIENCE**, John is commanding STOP and SMELL the COFFEE! Take it all in realizing your King is resurrected, glorified, returning, to make you like He is, and it’s all because you have been loved by a Father that never surrendered you, **His child**, to this world. **We are defined and refined by our blessings as God’s children.**

This is exactly what makes the world, **while it likes what you can do for them**, turn its’ back on you when it’s done with you. It did the same to Jesus. *Heal us, deliver us, and elevate us but if you don’t give us all that now then we want nothing to do with you.*

Imitating Christ means we will be misunderstood, because we cannot be known, as Christ could not be known by the world. Since we cannot be understood in their terms, by their definitions, by you not doing what they want you to do, you too may be rejected.

But in and of that itself, that is a great thing because it gives you hope! The Apostles were strengthened not weakened when they were thrown in prison and then beaten by the same man that called for Jesus’ death ([Acts 5:40-41](#)). The mistreatment to the Apostles had told them they had come to know the Father through Jesus, because now they were rejected by confused men just as Jesus was.

**We gain Hope for everyday living when we realize we are persecuted everyday, for His name!**

Being persecuted, being mistreated, being accused of hate speech, being accused of being different means you’re on the right track. That path of enduring persecution is also the path that leads to glorification.

**4. We gain Hope by looking forward to our glorification. (v.2)**





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<sup>2</sup> Beloved, we are God’s children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall **be like him**, because we shall see him as he is.

John is like because you are God’s child you are **not done growing yet!** – *what we will be has not yet appeared!*

**Illustration:**

One of the most fun jobs as a parent is to mark for your child on the wall of a home the child’s growth progress. Because it brings both you and them joy to see where they have come from and dream to see where they will end up! That’s Hope, because for a kid when they have had a rough day, when they got bullied, when they fail a test, when they are sick, when they are lonely, when they are unsure about their life, when it all seems out of their control, there is something altogether wonderful looking at a reminder on the wall, or looking at pictures from yesterday (FB memories), and knowing this is not all you have to look forward to. You are changing and one day it won’t matter what’s happening because **what you will be has not yet appeared!**

**Explanation:**

Everyone else, all the haters, all those that play the game of being liked by the world, all they have to look forward to, is what they can make of themselves now! But you, you got more in you, there is more coming, because God doesn’t leave His kids undeveloped!

What’s more you know what you’re going to look like!

The world says you MUST like what you are now! The Bible says focus more on what you are becoming!

The world says it is unloving not to accept your status now, but God says your status is not tied up in earthly definitions.

The world says you can be happy by being tolerant of sin, but God says blessed are those that pursue righteousness!



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Our Hope is tied up in looking at Jesus, seeing what He has gained, and then believing that we too one day shall be like Him when we see Him in all His glory!

Church that is HUGE picture to keep in your mind, but John also provided for us a way to protect that Hope to solidify it, a way to keep HOPE in your mind first and foremost HOPE. And when that happens it will generate feelings that cannot be dampened by daily events.

**5. We solidify our Hope by continued self-purification. (v.3)**

**<sup>3</sup> And everyone who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure.**

Wrapping up this Hope this morning we remember Hope is gained by our abiding in Christ and thinking about all that is coming upon His return, that is what keeps you going. And now John says while you are here, if you want to preserve that Hope you have got to keep purifying yourself as Christ is pure.

**Ephesians 5:1-8 ESV**

**<sup>5</sup> Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children. <sup>2</sup> And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.**

**<sup>3</sup> But sexual immorality and all impurity or covetousness must not even be named among you, as is proper among saints. <sup>4</sup> Let there be no filthiness nor foolish talk nor crude joking, which are out of place, but instead let there be thanksgiving. <sup>5</sup> For you may be sure of this, that everyone who is sexually immoral or impure, or who is covetous (that is, an idolater), has no inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God. <sup>6</sup> Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience. <sup>7</sup> Therefore do not become partners with them; <sup>8</sup> for at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light <sup>9</sup> (for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true), <sup>10</sup> and try to discern what is pleasing to the Lord. <sup>11</sup> Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them.**

John is just building on what Paul had already preached to the Ephesians. Paul is like “Look, stay away from these things!”, and then according to Paul, you want to solidify, you want to practice HOPE, He says why don’t you **EXPOSE the darkness (v.11)**. Push into it, shine light on the dark things of the world.





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Perhaps think of it this way, if you are really hoping in who Jesus is, what He did, and in His imminent return then **your best strategy is to challenge the world with what you have! Expose the world for its' lies!**

**CONCLUSION / RESPONSE:**

When you expose the world and live in the Truth here are some things that can happen:

Instead of resting in (abiding) politics or being as mad as everyone else explain to people its' ok Jesus is exploiting politicians and this pandemic to magnify His glory. Show people you're secure in the justice that will doled out in the future.

Expose the darkness for what it is by being ok with your failures but not being ok with staying the same. Show your family and friends you like working in your sanctification because it shows you think much of Jesus!

Expose the darkness and gain a little more Hope by not hiding from the world but confront it when it smears what you believe in. Seriously though, do a little less FB and love your friends and tell them in person, it will go a lot farther in your testimony.

Expose the darkness by not getting caught up in what brings you emotional security now but practice thinking about what will come. **Pray for Jesus' return now!** Make it a part of your daily routine, talk about it with your family, and this church!

Solidify this Hope, by **choosing something in this world to turn off!** What has way too much influence in your life right now, what gets you off track, what makes you look for emotional fixes in other things? Whatever it is, burn it like the Ephesians did with their witchcraft books and practice purifying yourself, and solidify your Hope in Him.

**Hope is gained and solidified by abiding in Christ.**

Family today I offer you what has already been offered to you by your heavenly Father, put your Hope in Jesus, who He is, what He has done, **ABIDE in HIM**, and look forward to the day when you will be like Him!



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**Prayer**

**Communion**

**Benediction**

Go in the name of the Father, that has sent us His Son so we may have a living Hope.

Go in the name of the Son, that has fulfilled all righteousness so we may live in peaceful Hope.

Go in the name and power of the HS, that helps us pursue purity so that we may live solidifying our Hope in Christ alone.