

Sermon ~ Sunday, January 17, 2021 by Pastor D. Benoit

Text: I John 3: 1-10 (Please Read All of Chapter 3)

Title: "We are our Heavenly FATHER'S Children!"

We are our **Heavenly FATHER'S Children**, and we all know that **HE Loves** us one and all.

Yet there are times when we find we answer, another's voice and call.

If we are willing, **HE** will teach us. **HIS VOICE** only to *obey*, no matter where.

And **HE Knows**, YES, **HE Knows**, just how much we can bear!

In this second half of his Epistle, the Apostle John, gives us *contrasts*: **The Children of GOD** and *the children of the Devil*. **The Children of GOD** are called "**sons of GOD**". *The children of the devil* are called children of deception. **The Children of GOD** have *confidence*— "a Future Hope." *The children of the Devil* have only *despair* eternally. **The Children of GOD** are known by their *conduct*— "righteousness." *The children of the Devil* are known by their "unrighteousness—*sin(s)*." **The Children of GOD** are *charitable*, that is, "they **Love** their brother." *The children of the Devil* are without compassion—they hate their own blood.

John's first word to us is "BEHOLD" ... the Greek word is "*ide*," pronounced (id'-eh).

It's used in the *imperative tense*, literally meaning, "be sure to see!" i.e., "don't miss this!

It is an observable objective **TRUTH!** "BEHOLD," that is, you may read other **SCRIPTURES of The Bible** with a glance BUT *stop* here! "BEHOLD," is saying, there is something eminently worthy of our attention buried beneath these words.

"BEHOLD, what manner of love **The FATHER** hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called **the sons of GOD...**" That is, consider who we *were*, and who we *are now*! What we feel ourselves to be (not of ourselves only) but by **The Divine GRACE of GOD'S Power** within us! Not 'subjects' but "**sons!**" Not 'slaves' but "**sons of GOD!**"

What a *higher relationship*, "**sons with GOD The FATHER!**" What *privileges* we have,

"**sons of our FATHER!**" What *liberties* I have, we have, "**sons with The FATHER!**"

Oh, what *obedience* "**the son**" owes to such **a Loving FATHER!**

And, *more* than that, "we *now* have this, *through* **CHRIST JESUS!**

"NOW!" *Right* "NOW!" Maybe, John is saying, you are "in your lowest depth of sorrows, sufferings and worries. BUT "NOW are we **the sons of GOD!**" Maybe, the guilty of your pass and of today is welling up on the inside and **GRACE, GOD'S GRACE**, seems to be *nowhere* found. BUT "NOW are we **the sons of GOD!**" Maybe, your **Faith in GOD** is failing you? BUT "NOW are we **the sons of GOD!**" Beloved, with all these things against us, *now*—in the depths of our sorrows; *now*—in the valleys as on the mountains; *now*—in the dungeons as in the palace; *now*—in the storms of life, as in the sunshine, "NOW are we **the sons of GOD!**"

Read the next, "It doth not yet appear what we shall be; but we know that when **HE** shall appear, we shall be like **HIM.**" Now, we are not *all that*, but we have some more refining process to undergo, even death, but we know, "that when **HE** shall appear, we shall be like **HIM**; for we shall see **HIM** as **HE is.**"

"We are our Heavenly FATHER'S Children!"

“And every man that hath this hope *in* him, purifieth himself, even as **HE (CHRIST JESUS)** *is* pure. Whosoever committeth *sin* transgresseth also the Law, for *sin* is the transgression of the Law. And ye know that **HE** was manifested to take away our *sins*; and *in HIM* is no *sin*.”

JESUS manifested **HIMSELF** to take away the *penalty* of our *sins* that we have committed; that **HE** accomplished, “**The JUST** for the unjust;” **JESUS** sustained the *penalties* for me (us)! **JESUS** manifested **HIMSELF** to “take away the *power* of our *sins*; that is to say, **HE** conquered our *lusts*, our *evil imaginations*, *purified* us, making us like **HIMSELF**. What a **MERCY**! Some of us have been striving a long, long while, to conquer our *sin(s)*, and we have not and cannot do it.

Ah! But **HE** taketh them all away.” The time will come when you and I will stand without spot or blemish, before **The Throne of GOD**: we “without fault before **The Throne of GOD**”, at that moment, we shall be there without *sin*. ALLELEUJAH!

“Whosoever abideth *in HIM* sinneth not: whosoever sinneth hath not seen **HIM**, neither known **HIM**.” Please do not twist what John said. John does not say, “that *some* that abide *in CHRIST* do not *sin*.” No, John says, “that *none* who abide *in CHRIST* *sin*.” YES, “Whosoever abideth *in HIM* sinneth not.” This cannot mean, that one does not *sin* at all, but it means that the “**sons of GOD**” *sins* not “*habitually*, he *sins* not *designedly*, he *sins* not *finally*, so as to *perish* because of *sinning*. **The BIBLE** calls men “*righteous*” but that does not mean that he is “*perfectly righteous* in himself.” It calls a man a *sinner*, but it does not imply that he may *not* have done some good deeds in his life; it means that that is the man’s *character*.

“Little children, let no man deceive you: he that doeth righteousness is righteous, even as **HE** *is* righteous.” That is the *sign*. *Works* are **The Fruit of GRACE**. “He is righteous,” –not in himself; for mark how **GRACES** come in here— “He is righteous, even as **HE** *is* righteous.” It will not allow our righteousness to be our own, but it brings us to **CHRIST** again.

What a **Wonderful LOVE**— “Behold, what manner of **Love The FATHER** hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called *the sons of GOD*...” (I John 3: 1)

What a **Promise CHRIST** *gives*— “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*. And every man that have this hope in **HIM** purifieth himself, even as **HE** *is* pure.” (I John 3: 2, 3)

Oh, **CHRIST’S** *death* on **The Cross** (I John 3: 4-8), it revealed **GOD our loving FATHER** and enables me (us) to have **fellowship with HIM**. It took away the *penalty* and *power* of *sin*—I am free. It destroyed (annul) the world of the Devil and it revealed **GOD’S Love** and bestowed **GOD’S life** in me (us) “*born-again*”, a “*new-nature*”, “*the seed*” of **GOD** through **JESUS** *in* us!

“We are our Heavenly FATHER’S Children!”

Verse,

Think of the times you have asked the question? Down in your heart, now just what shall I do?
Then you confide in your friend and Loved ones, but they have troubles too.
There is a **GOD WHO** rules earth and heaven. In **HIM** there's relief from every pain or care.

For **HE Knows**, Yes, **HE Knows**, just how much we can bear!

Verse,

Just **Praise HIS NAME** although you are burdened.
For there are blessings **HE'S** bestowed on you. In every way, we *must* never doubt **HIM!**
These trials we *must* go through. Try to endure a little longer, and do not forget that for each of
us **HE cares!**

And **HE Knows**, Yes, **HE Knows**, just how much we can bear!

Refrain:

Though the load gets heavy, you're never left alone to bear it all.
Just ask for strength and keep on toiling, tho' the teardrops fall.
You have **The JOY** of this Assurance,
The Heavenly FATHER will always answer prayer.

And **HE Knows**, Yes, **HE Knows**, just how much we can bear!

(Roberta Martin)

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