

CHRISTIAN CLEANSING

1 John 3

INTRODUCTION

- A. John wrote this letter for three reasons:
 - 1. Warn against false teaching, 4:1.
 - 2. Encourage a renewal of love for the brethren, 3:14-18.
 - 3. To give criteria for judging our faith, 5:13.
- B. In the previous two weeks, we have studied the Christian Confession and Christian Character and how they tie together in our walk with Jesus.
- C. This morning we will look at John's reminder to the church then of how God provided for our cleansing and how that leads to a different way of life.

I. THE PROMISE. Vss. 1-3

- A. Sons of God.
 - 1. Verse 1
 - 2. Means we are heirs, children of God.
 - a. John 1:12
 - b. Romans 8:16-17
- B. We shall see Christ. vs. 2
 - 1. 1 Corinthians 13:12
 - 2. 2 Corinthians 3:18
- C. This hope produces holiness. Vs. 3
 - 1. This is our desire, our longing, our aim.
 - 2. Psalm 63:1, *"O God, Thou art my God; I shall seek Thee earnestly; My soul thirsts for Thee, my flesh yearns for Thee, in a dry and weary land where there is no water."*
 - 3. Titus 3:7 – justified by His grace.

II. THE PURITY. Vss. 4-10

- A. Definition of sin, vs. 4. Lawlessness.
 - 1. We live in a wicked world, where sin reigns.
 - 2. We sin and are in need of the Lord's cleansing. Romans 3:23
- B. Purpose of Christ's coming.
 - 1. Vs. 5, to take away sin.
 - a. John 1:29, *"The next day he [John the Baptist] saw Jesus coming to him, and said, 'Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!'"*
 - 2. Vs. 6, practices sin.
- C. What it takes to be righteous, vs. 7.
 - 1. Battle between Christ and Satan, vs. 8.
 - 2. Romans 6:16 – slaves of sin or righteousness.
- D. Cannot sin, vs. 9.
 - 1. 2 Corinthians 5:17, Christ changes people.
 - 2. God's seed abides in him.
 - a. God's seed is the principle of spiritual life as imparted to the believer.
 - b. This principle is found in the word of God. Matthew 13

- b. As long as God's word abides in us, we cannot *continue* in sin.
- E. Our purity is based on God's standard, vs. 10.

III. THE PRINCIPLES. Vss. 11-18

- A. Four important truths given:
 - 1. Loving, vs. 11.
 - 2. Hating is a sin, vs. 15.
 - a. Matthew 5:21-22.
 - 3. Giving, vs. 16.
 - a. Ourselves and our material things.
 - b. 2 Corinthians 8:5, first gave themselves.
 - c. The lesson Jesus taught washing feet, John 13.
 - 4. Showing our love, vs. 18.
 - a. James 2:15ff
 - b. "...faith without works is dead", James 2:26

IV. THE PROSPECTS. Vss. 19-24

- A. Conscience, vss. 19-20.
 - 1. A conscience is not an infallible guide – however, if it condemns us, God does also.
 - a. Jeremiah 17:9, "*The heart is more deceitful than all else and is desperately sick; who can understand it?*"
 - b. But the Lord searches the heart... (Jer. 17:10).
- B. Confidence before God, vss. 21-22.
 - 1. We have a pure conscience because we have done His will – therefore, we have confidence before Him.
 - 2. Hebrews 10:19-23
- C. His commandment, vs. 23.
 - 1. Believe – an acting, obedient faith.
 - a. Philippians 2:9-11
 - b. Acts 4:12
 - 2. *A belief and corresponding life style [of love]. John 13:34-35*
- D. Confirmation, vs. 24.
 - 1. Because the Spirit abides in us, we know we abide in God.
 - 2. Given at baptism, Acts 2:38
 - a. Given as a seal, Ephesians 1:13-14.
 - b. Dwells within us, 1 Corinthians 6:19-20.