

Theme: An authentic eschatology does not promote speculation about signs, but rather an eager hope for the completion of our salvation that is fueled by purifying ourselves from the practice of sin now.

## I. The Late Great Planet Earth

- A. Popular book and movie when I first got saved
- B. Eschatology - study of the last things; end times
- C. We love to speculate about signs, end times, etc.
- D. John's eschatology is very different than that
  - 1. "Are we in last days?" vs. "It has been last hour since 1<sup>st</sup> century"
  - 2. "Is the antichrist rising?" vs "Many antichrists have already come"
- E. Today - purity rather than speculation - theme statement

## II. An Authentic Eschatology

- A. Link with the previous section; shift in focus

And now, dear children, **continue** in him, so that **when he appears** we may be confident and unashamed before him **at his coming**. 1 John 2:28

  - 1. Previous section had focus on continuing/remaining
  - 2. John also mentioned end times - last hour, antichrist
  - 3. Focus change from continuing in him to eschatology
- B. A focus on eschatology - eschatological terms
  - 1. When He appears (2:28)
  - 2. At His coming (2:28)

- 3. What we will be (3:2)
- 4. When He appears (3:2)
- 5. We shall be like Him, for we shall see Him (3:2)
- 6. Hope - of seeing Him, being like Him (3:3)
- C. The authentic return of Christ

And now, dear children, continue in him, so that when he **appears** we may be confident and unashamed before him at his **coming**. 1 John 2:28

  - 1. Two key facts seen in two Greek words
    - a. **φανερώω** - appear; it will be visible
    - b. **παρουσία** - coming of the King Himself; will be personal
  - 2. At His return Jesus - who is invisible and physically not present with us now - will be visible and physically present before us again.
  - 3. Any other "eschatology" is inauthentic!
- D. The desire - to be confident, not ashamed on that Day

And now, dear children, continue in him, **so that when he appears we may be confident and unashamed before him at his coming**. 1 John 2:28

  - 1. On that Day we want to be confident, not ashamed
  - 2. John says we can approach that Day with boldness
  - 3. To do this, we must continue in Him
  - 4. How do we continue in Him to prepare?

### III. An Authentic Response To Christ's Return

#### A. Authentic response - not speculation but righteousness!

If you know that he is righteous, you know that everyone who does what is right has been born of him. 1 John 2:29

1. Does not lead to speculation but sanctification!
2. His character is righteous; ours should be too!
3. This will be reinforced in 3:1-3
4. This will be further teased out in 3:4-10

#### B. Why righteousness (purity) is necessary for Christians

##### 1. Because God is righteous - and He is coming!

If you know that **he is righteous**, you know that everyone who does what is right has been born of him... Everyone who has this hope in him purifies himself, **just as he is pure**. 1 John 2:29; 3:3

- a. God is righteous and pure in character and action
- b. His people should want to be the same!

##### 2. Because it is in our spiritual genes - regeneration

If you know that he is righteous, you know that **everyone who does what is right has been born of him**. <sup>3:1</sup> How great is the love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be **called children of God! And that is what we are!** The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. <sup>2</sup> Dear friends, **now we are children of God**. 1 Jo 2:29-3:2

- a. We have been born of God - regeneration
- b. We are children of God - primarily regeneration here

- c. We are children of God NOW - regeneration
- d. Notice the perfect tense in v29 - regeneration is past act of God
- e. This past act has present effects - we live like Him
- f. Anyone who is truly God's child has been born again, with a new nature that desires to be righteous and pure - like our Father.

##### 3. Because purity is our destination

Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. **But we know that when he appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is.** <sup>3</sup> **Everyone who has this hope in him purifies himself, just as he is pure.** 1 John 3:2-3

- a. Now we are children of God; but not yet complete!
- b. When He appears we shall be like Him!
- c. He is pure, so if we have this hope, we want to be pure!

### IV. Authentic Holiness

#### A. Authentic holiness is based on God's prior work

If you know that he is righteous, you know that **everyone who does what is right has been born of him**. <sup>3:1</sup> How great is the love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be **called children of God! And that is what we are!** **The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him.** <sup>2</sup> Dear friends, **now we are children of God**. 1 Jo 2:29-3:2

1. Once again, note that our present actions are based on what God has already done for us in Christ!
2. This is all part of our great inheritance in Christ!

3. We have not been left to ourselves - God works first
4. This new spiritual reality is why we are consistently at odds with the world.
5. The reality of regeneration is so great that we now long for holiness - even when this puts us at odds with the world, the flesh and the devil

B. Authentic holiness is fueled by our hope of glorification

Dear friends, **now** we are children of God, and what we will be has **not yet** been made known. **But we know that when he appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is.** <sup>3</sup> Everyone who has this hope in him **purifies himself, just as he is pure.** 1 John 3:2–3

1. We live in the **now but not yet** of sanctification
2. We do not know everything about what is coming
3. But we do know it will be the home of righteousness
4. And we do know we will be like Jesus!

And just as we have borne the likeness of the earthly man, **so shall we bear the likeness of the man from heaven.** 1 Corinthians 15:49

But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>21</sup> who, by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control, **will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body.** Philippians 3:20–21

5. This hope of being like Jesus fuels our present quest for purity

C. Authentic holiness requires our active participation

If you know that he is righteous, you know that everyone who **does what is right** has been born of him... <sup>3:3</sup> Everyone who has this hope in him **purifies himself**, just as he is pure. 1 John 2:29; 3:3

1. Not speaking of righteousness given in justification, but righteousness lived in sanctification
2. We are to purify ourselves - requires our participation
3. Same idea as Philippians 2:12-13  
Therefore, my dear friends, as you have always obeyed—not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence—**continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling,** <sup>13</sup> **for it is God who works in you to will and to act according to his good purpose.** Philippians 2:12–13
4. A key area of active participation in holiness is beholding Christ and building up our hope in heaven by meditating on God's Word

D. Authentic holiness is not just abstaining from sin but positively doing righteousness

If you know that he is righteous, you know that everyone who **does what is right** has been born of him. 1 John 2:29

1. Note that John speaks of continuous practice of doing righteousness
2. So often we focus on holiness as a list of don'ts
3. But the best way to stop doing evil to is actively engage in doing good!  
[Jesus Christ] <sup>14</sup> who gave himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness and to **purify** for himself a people that are his very own, **eager to do what is good.** Titus 2:14

## V. Applying the Authentic Word

### A. Am I ready for the return of Christ?

1. He will return again - that is beyond question!
2. But will I be ready to stand before Him?
3. The only way - to embrace Him by faith now!

### B. Do I look forward to the return of Christ?

1. His return is our blessed hope!
2. But there was so much inauthentic eschatology that focused on signs that many have given up on this
3. "So heavenly minded they are no earthly good"
4. But His return is our great hope that sustains us in this evil fallen world
5. Don't let the crazy speculation form of eschatology dim our desire to think on His return!
6. This world is broken; our lives have pain; death is everywhere
7. Only the return of Christ will fix this! Long for it!

### C. Does the return of Christ fuel my present holiness?

1. This is the effect of authentic eschatology
2. Do I see that regeneration naturally produces a desire for holiness?
3. Am I filling my hands with works of righteousness?

### D. The Table of Hope and Holiness

1. This Table is eschatological - and gives us hope
2. This Table empowers us for holiness now

## An Authentic Eschatology

1 John 2:28-3:3

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Communion

1 Thessalonians 5:23-24

Teaching keywords: eschatology, holiness, regeneration, sanctification

23 May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. 24 The one who calls you is faithful and he will do it. 1 Thessalonians 5:23-24

And now, dear children, continue in him, so that when he appears we may be confident and unashamed before him at his coming.

<sup>29</sup> If you know that he is righteous, you know that everyone who does what is right has been born of him.

<sup>1</sup> How great is the love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are! The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. <sup>2</sup> Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when he appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is. <sup>3</sup> Everyone who has this hope in him purifies himself, just as he is pure. 1 John 2:28-3:3