

I John 3:1-6

REVIEW...

- **God is LIGHT...**
 - Having stated God is LIGHT – and in Him is NO darkness at all – **I John 1:5**
 - Having given us the THREE tests to PROVE we are in the LIGHT - **I John 2:1-11**
 - And described THREE seasons all of us should go through as we GROW in the LIGHT...
 - John finished up the FIRST section of the book – by telling us to BE a LIGHT!
- **BE a LIGHT...**
 - Because we are in the LAST hour – the Day of the LORD is coming [rise of the Antichrist]
 - Because of what we KNOW – we are ANOINTED and have the TRUTH...
 - Because we ABIDE in Jesus – and have the Spirit of God within us
 - Giving us the confidence that when Jesus does appear – we will NOT be ashamed!
- **God is LOVE...**
 - Which brings us to the SECOND section of the Book – God is LOVE...
 - God is LIGHT – He wants to reveal our SIN - so we can be FORGIVEN...
 - But WHY God was willing to DIE to save us – because of His LOVE for us!

LOVE OF THE FATHER...

- **1st – DEFINING LOVE... vs. 1**
 - 1st – What kind of LOVE... vs. 1
 - Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us!
 - BEHOLD [imperative] – we are commanded to LOOK and SEE...
 - What KIND [ποταπός] of LOVE has the FATHER given [perfect] to us!
 - LOVE is a very hard word to DEFINE – it has a LOT of meanings...
 - We might say that we LOVE sushi – we also LOVE our spouse – and we LOVE God...
 - But hopefully our LOVE for food is not the same as our LOVE for the LORD!
 - We have ONE word in our language for LOVE - the Greek has FOUR!
 - [έρως]- sexual love - the only one of the FOUR kinds of love never mentioned in the Bible...
 - [στοργή] - family love - the love of a sibling - parent - or relative - **Romans 12:10**
 - [φιλέω]- brotherly love or friendship - used 25x in NT
 - [ἀγάπη] - perfect love - sacrificial love - used 117x in NT!
 - AGAPE is often [though not always] used to describe the LOVE of God - **I John 4:8**
 - There is an ENTIRE chapter of the Bible dedicated to defining it – **I Corinthians 13**
 - Of all the word in the Bible – there is NONE more important than AGAPE...
 - That is why Satan has gone out of his way to DESTROY the meaning of the WORD...
 - He makes sure LOVE has MANY meanings – making it HARD to define!
 - What is LOVE...
 - When Jen and I were dating – I recorded a music video for her...
 - I was singing and dancing on a beach and in the mountains – I was in LOVE!
 - Usually people equate LOVE to actions – if we LOVE someone we do things for them...
 - But LOVE is not WHAT we do – LOVE is the MOTIVE for our actions...
 - We can be KIND to someone – because we WANT something from them – that is not LOVE...
 - We can be HARD on someone – because they are making a bad choice – that is LOVE...
 - AGAPE is not WHAT the FATHER does – it is the REASON why He does it...
 - It was NOT nails that held Jesus on the cross – it was the AGAPE of our God...
 - The FATHER loved us so much – there was NOTHING He would not do to save us!

- o 2nd – Children of God... vs. 1
 - That we should be called children of God!
 - We SHOULD [subjunctive] be called [passive] His CHILDREN...
 - CHILDREN [τεκνίων] – 7x in the book - a term used by teachers for their disciples – **John 13:33**
 - The IDEA here is we have been ADOPTED by the Father!
 - **Romans 8:15-17** – “You received the Spirit of adoption by whom... we are children of God.”
 - If someone has a CHILD – they do not get to CHOSE – you get what you are given...
 - But when someone is ADOPTED – there is a CHOICE – you get to PICK...
 - ADOPTION is a powerful picture – because it means we were CHOSEN!
 - Before we received the LOVE of God – we were the CHILDREN of Satan – **I John 3:10**
 - Yet God CALLED [passive] us - knowing everything about us - to be His CHILDREN...
 - I know how much of a challenge I can be - how many times I make mistakes...
 - I am always amazed - God also knowing exactly who I am - still CHOSE me!
 - And through His LOVE – He made us into the CHILDREN of God!
- o 3rd – Proof we are His Kids... vs. 1
 - Therefore the world does not know us - because it did not know Him!
 - How do we KNOW we are LOVED – that we are the CHILDREN of the FATHER...
 - If the WORLD [κόσμος] does not KNOW [γινώσκω] us...
 - KNOW [γινώσκω] – meaning to UNDERSTAND...
 - They do not UNDERSTAND us – because they do not KNOW Jesus!
 - **John 15:19** – “If you were of the world - the world would love [φιλέω] its own. Yet because you are not of the world - but I chose you out of the world - therefore the world hates you.”
 - When we LIVE for Jesus - those who are in the WORLD will not UNDERSTAND us...
 - People in the WORLD are not walking with Jesus - their PRIORITIES are different...
 - They see going to church – studying the Bible – as a WASTE of time...
 - They argue we should LIVE for TODAY – make MONEY - not worry about ETERNITY...
 - Because they do not KNOW Jesus – they cannot UNDERSTAND us...
 - Proving we are the CHILDREN of the FATHER - and NOT the CHILDREN of this world!
- 2ND – TRANSFORMED BY LOVE... vs. 2
 - o 1st – Hidden... vs. 2
 - Beloved - now we are children of God!
 - BELOVED [ἀγαπητός] – those who have RECEIVED the AGAPE of the Father...
 - We are [indicative] the CHILDREN [τεκνίων] of God...
 - Not a QUESTION [subjunctive] – it is a statement of FACT [indicative]
 - But being a CHILD of God is not the CONCLUSION – it is just the BEGINNING!
 - I can remember as a KID being asked – what will you be when you GROW up...
 - I had all kinds of ideas – I was going to be a fighter PILOT – or an ASTRONAUT...
 - But the truth was – I had no idea what I would be as an ADULT!
 - It has not yet been revealed what we shall be!
 - What will we be like when we GROW up in Jesus...
 - In the same way – it has not been REVEALED [φανερώω] what we will be [future]
 - But God is WORKING in our lives – to make us into something AMAZING!
 - Canvas and paint are nothing special - until the painter makes it a work of art...
 - A lump of clay is nothing - until it is TRANSFORMED by the skillful hand of the potter!
 - God does NOT want to us to stay the same after we are saved...
 - But being TRANSFORMED does NOT happen in a MOMENT - the day we are saved...

- It is a PROCESS of growing in Jesus – LEARNING to follow after Him...
- We are the clay on the potters wheel - God is making us His masterpiece – **Ephesians 2:10**

o 2nd – Like Jesus... vs. 2

- But we know that when He is revealed - we shall be like Him - for we shall see Him as He is!
 - What we do KNOW [εἶδω] – to see with our eyes NOW...
 - When Jesus is REVEALED [φανερόω] – speaking of the RETURN of Jesus...
 - On that day – we will be LIKE [ὅμοιος] Jesus – because we will SEE Him...
 - How will we be LIKE Jesus – there are TWO thoughts:
- In what we KNOW...
 - **I Corinthians 13:2** – “Now we see through a glass darkly - but then face to face. Now I know in part -but then shall I know even as also I am known.”
 - Ancient mirrors were much different from the ones we have today...
 - They were made of polished metal - the reflection would be distorted and dark!
 - Our understanding of Jesus NOW is like that mirror - dark and distorted...
 - Our sinful nature - and the limits of our understanding keep us from seeing clearly...
 - But when we get to heaven - see Jesus face to face - we will see perfectly...
 - Then we will UNDERSTAND everything - just as Jesus understands does!
- In a new BODY...
 - A caterpillar is lowly creature - forced to crawl around all its life in the dust...
 - It might longingly look up and think how wonderful it would be to fly - but it cannot...
 - But God has a great plan for the caterpillar - one day it will be buried in a cocoon...
 - When it emerges - it will have changed into a beautiful butterfly - with magnificent wings!
 - **II Corinthians 5:1** – “We know [εἶδω] that when... we die and leave this earthly body - we will have... an eternal body made for us by God himself.” [NLT]
 - Our physical - sinful - corrupt bodies cannot inherit eternal life – **I Corinthians 15:50**
 - They were NOT designed to live forever - they were NOT meant to go to heaven...
 - But God has a new body - a MUCH better one - prepared for us...
 - When we are resurrected we will be just LIKE Jesus - when He was resurrected...
 - Jesus who could walk right through walls - **John 20:19** - who could fly - **Acts 1:9**
 - No need to knock on the door - who cares if it is locked - we can walk right in...
 - No need to own a CAR - no need to take a PLANE - we will be just fly...
 - There will be no more pain - no more sickness - no more tears - **Revelation 21:4**
 - And this is just the LITTLE we know about our resurrected bodies!

● 3rd – VICTORY THOUGH LOVE... vs. 3-6

o 1st – Purified... vs. 3

- Everyone who has this hope in Him...
 - ALL [πᾶς] who HOPE [ἐλπίζω] - 54x in NT - what we EXPECT to happen...
 - What is our HOPE – that we will be LIKE Jesus when He is REVEALED...
 - WHEN is He REVEALED – at the RAPTURE of the church!
 - **I Corinthians 15:51-52** – “I tell you a mystery. We shall not all sleep - but we shall all be changed - in a moment - in the twinkling of an eye - at the last trumpet.”
 - No one knows the exact day or hour - only the Father in heaven - **Mark 13:32**
 - It will happen in a moment [ἄτομος] - in the blink of an eye – like a thief in the night...
 - The BELOVED – the church - will be snatched up into heaven!
- Purifies himself - just as He is pure!
 - PURIFIES – [ἀγνίζω] – from the ROOT word HOLY – to be separate for God...
 - If we are LIVING [present] our LIVES like Jesus could come back at ANY moment...

- It will cause us to be HOLY – so we are ready to meet God who is HOLY [ἁγνός]!
 - I doubt any of us woke up this morning thinking Jesus will come back today...
 - But we are in the last HOUR – Jesus could come right NOW...
 - Are we READY – if the RAPTURE happened – what would Jesus find in us doing...
 - We might think – PLEASE come back NOW – I am in CHURCH...
 - But what if He came this AFTERNOON – or TOMORROW morning...
 - When we CHOOSE [active] to live our LIVES – like Jesus could come at any moment...
 - It causes us to be HOLY – set apart and ready to see our LORD!
- o 2nd – The SIN... vs. 4
- **Whoever commits [the] sin...**
 - WHY be HOLY – because ALL [πᾶς] who commit SIN – are LAWLESS...
 - SIN [ἁμαρτία] – the word SIN is SINGULAR – it is THE [τὴν] SIN...
 - What is THE sin – rejecting the LOVE of the FATHER given through Jesus Christ...
 - Because there is only ONE way to be SAVED – ONE way to be FORGIVEN!
 - There are a lot of different ideas about how to get to heaven...
 - The WORLD tries to convince us – ALL roads lead to heaven...
 - Partially true – ALL roads lead to the White Throne Judgement – **Revelation 20:11**
 - Wide is the path that leads to destruction – many go in by it - **Matthew 7:13**
 - If ALL roads lead to heaven – then the cross was a waste of time...
 - Jesus suffered and died for no reason – and the Gospel is just news – not GOOD News!
 - **Galatians 2:21** – “If we could be saved [another way], there was no need for Christ to die.”
 - **Also commits lawlessness – [the] sin is lawlessness!**
 - Anyone who COMMITS [present] the SIN – rejecting the LOVE of Jesus – is LAWLESS...
 - LAWLESS [ἀνομία] – to be WITHOUT the LAW of God!
 - Because it is NOT possible for us to live a HOLY life on our OWN...
 - No matter how hard we try – we are doomed to FAIL – we will BREAK the LAW...
 - We are not SINNERS because we SIN – we SIN because we are SINNERS!
 - **Romans 7:14** – “The trouble is not with the law - for it is... good. The trouble is with me - for I am all too human - a slave to sin.” [NLT]
- o 3rd – No more SINS... vs. 5
- **And you know that He was manifested to take away our sins...**
 - We KNOW [εἶδω] – Jesus was REVEALED [φανερώω] the FIRST time - to take away SINS...
 - SINS [ἁμαρτίας] – this time the word SIN is PLURAL...
 - Jesus came to REMOVE [carry off] ALL of our SINS – bring us FORGIVENESS...
 - He did so by KEEPING the LAW of God [την] – all 613 commandments...
 - Then Jesus – the ONLY perfect man – PAID the price for our SIN – **Romans 6:23**
 - Giving us one of the great mysteries of the ages – God gave us the righteousness of Jesus!
 - **II Corinthians 5:21** – “[God] made [Jesus] to be sin for us - who knew no sin - that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.”
 - **And in Him there is no sin!**
 - Only in Jesus – we have lived a perfect life – we have fulfilled the requirement of the Law...
 - Now when God looks down on us – He does not see our sinful mistakes or flaws...
 - He instead sees the perfect life of His Son Jesus – He sees NO sin!
- o 4th – Abide... vs. 6
- **Whoever abides in Him does not sin!**
 - ALL [πᾶς] – who ABIDE – to be CONTINUALLY [present] connected to Jesus...
 - The RESULT of ABIDING in Jesus – is we will NOT CONTINUALLY [present] SIN!

- The moment you cut off a branch from the tree – it dies...
 - The branch knows separation means DEATH – so it CLINGS to the tree!
 - The only way we will have VICTORY over SIN – is to stay CONNECTED to Jesus...
 - Only as we spend time with Jesus – are we truly alive – and bear FRUIT...
 - That is why it is so important to STAY in the WORD – PRAYER – and FELLOWSHIP!
 - **John 15:4** – “Abide in me - and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself - unless it abides in the vine – neither can you – unless you abide in me.”
- o 5th – Know God... vs. 6
- **Whoever...**
 - WHOEVER comes from [πᾶς] – meaning ALL – also translated as EVERYONE...
 - This is the FOURTH time in this passage we find the word ALL!
 - Meaning the LOVE of the FATHER - is for EVERYONE...
 - Becoming a CHILD of God – is for EVERYONE...
 - The HOPE of being like Jesus – is for EVERYONE...
 - The PROMISE to overcome SIN – is for EVERYONE...
 - Because God wants EVERYONE to be SAVED – **II Peter 3:9**
 - **Romans 10:13** – “Whoever [πᾶς] calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved.”
 - **Sins has neither seen Him nor known Him!**
 - But there is also a NEGATIVE side to WHOEVER...
 - ALL who SIN - will NEVER [perfect] see Jesus – because they NEVER [perfect] KNEW Him...
 - KNOWN [γινώσκω] – to have a RELATIONSHIP with someone!
 - This verse had caused a LOT of confusion for people...
 - Does this mean if there is SIN in our life – it is the PROOF that we are NOT saved...
 - Yes – but do NOT miss – the word SIN is in the PRESENT tense...
 - If we are LIVING in a CONTINUAL [present] lifestyle of SIN...
 - Then we are cannot be ABIDING [present] CONTINUALLY in relationship with Jesus...
 - It is ONE or the OTHER – we ALL have to CHOSE – how do we LIVE our LIVES!
 - Look at the FRUIT...
 - **Matthew 7:2-23** – “Many will say to Me in that day – Lord – Lord - have we not prophesied in Your name - cast out demons in Your name - and done many wonders in Your name! And then I will declare to them - I never knew you. Depart from Me you who practice [present] lawlessness [ἀνομία].”
 - Jesus gives the same warning as John – look at the FRUIT...
 - Those who PRACTICE – continually live – a LAWLESS [ἀνομία] life...
 - Not matter what they may SAY – Lord [κύριος] – you are my MASTER...
 - The FRUIT from their lives tell a different story – they NEVER knew Jesus!
 - Just because someone goes to church - does not make them a Christian...
 - We can say all the right things to sound like a Christian - come to church every Sunday...
 - But it is not about what we SAY – it is about the FRUIT from our lives...
 - We will make OCCASIONAL mistakes - we are not PERFECT...
 - But we CANNOT live a life DEFINED by sin – that would show we do NOT know God...
 - Instead – let us CHOOSE to ABIDE in Jesus – and OVERCOME our SINS...
 - So that we can become the CHILDREN of God – and experience the LOVE of the FATHER!