

Passages to Ponder

(1 John 3:1-3)

Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of God! Therefore the world does not know us, because it did not know Him. Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is. And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.

The Apostle John wrote his first epistle to teach believers how to have and remain in the joy of the Lord. He tells us in this passage that one of the ways of doing so is by beholding ourselves as a child of God. When I behold myself as a child of God it will change the way I look at everything. For example, when I look at God I don't see Him as an angry task master that I have to work hard to appease. But I see Him as my heavenly Father who loves me and desires good for me because I am His child through faith in Jesus Christ. Also look at persecution differently, I expect it because they did it to Jesus our Father's only begotten Son. Also I can rejoice in persecution because it means that I bear the resemblance of the family of God.

Beholding myself as a child of God changes the way I look at the world and my life on earth. I see this world not as my home, but as a temporarily place that I'm passing through, I also see my life as an opportunity to please my Father, by being pure and doing good works, until I am changed like Jesus in the rapture.

Beholding myself as a child of God changes the way I look at the study of the bible. I don't see it as boring text book reading but as personal and exciting stories about my Father's strength and power. Hearing these stories makes me rejoice because I see that there's no Father like my Father.

Lastly beholding myself as a child of God changes the way I look at worship, I don't see singing as a meaningless duty, but I see it as a way to bless my Father. Our Father as all parents, loves to hear His children sing, it doesn't matter how well we sing, or even if we get all the words right, just making the effort brings joy to our Father's heart and a smile to His face.

This morning we have the opportunity to know the joy of the Lord, the way we do so is by beholding ourselves as a child of God.