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Youth E.D.G.E. Sunday School
Back to the Basics: A Study of 1 John - Part VIII

Hope
1 John 2:28-3:3

According to 1 Cor. 13:13, hope is a core characteristic of the Christian faith. But what is hope? To the believer, the Scriptural concept of hope is that of turning a blazing light into a dark place. It is a confident expectation that the promises of God are good, and they will be fulfilled. 1 John 2:28-3:3 is dedicated to the topic of hope. Specifically, the hope that Jesus is returning at any moment. Such a consideration should drive the believer, writes John, to five key perspectives regarding this matter of hope.

I. You must abide in Christ because of the hope that is yours (v. 28).

Those who faithfully abide in Christ will be confident when their king appears. Those who do not abide in Christ will shrink back in fear.

II. You must practice righteousness because of the hope that is yours (v. 29).

Faith comes before behavior, but behavior always accompanies faith. If you live a life of hope, you will practice righteousness.

III. You must embrace God's love because of the hope that is yours (v. 1).

God loves believers with a love that is impossible to articulate and is unfamiliar to any earthly experience. The true magnitude of God's love is unspeakable to John.

IV. You will become like Jesus because of the hope that is yours (v. 2).

This transaction will make the believer pure and holy with the ability to worship Jesus in truth. It has been often said that imitation is the highest form of praise. This imitation will be a supreme tribute to King Jesus.

V. You must purify yourself because of the hope that is yours (v. 3).

As you think about heaven, your primary occupation should not be self-centered. You should be preparing yourself to meet and worship your Maker for all of eternity!

Hope. Such a short word. Such profound truths. Because Jesus is returning, you must live a life of hope.