



Around the Word
BIBLE STUDY

Trinity, 2016

1 John 2:26–3:6

The Venerable Bede on New Life in Christ:

"The believer in Christ has already died to his old life and has been born again by faith, but it is not yet clear what the full extent of that new life will be. However, we do at least know that we shall be immortal and unchanging, because we shall enjoy the contemplation of God's eternity. Because we shall be blessed we shall be like Christ, yet at the same time we shall be unlike him because he is our Creator and we are only creatures."

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Introduction: In this section of 1 John, we will examine two very important topics of the Christian life. First, what does it mean to call ourselves children of God? Secondly, we see how the life of the Christian and our good works are rooted in the Gospel and what Jesus has done for us first.

Opening: Psalm 127

¹Unless the LORD builds the house,
those who build it labor in vain.*
Unless the LORD watches over the city,
the watchman stays awake in vain.

²**It is in vain that you rise up early
and go late to rest,
eating the bread of | anxious toil;*
for he gives to his be- | loved sleep.**

³Behold, children are a heritage | from the
LORD,*
the fruit of the womb | a reward.

⁴**Like arrows in the hand of a | warrior*
are the children | of one's youth.**

⁵Blessed is the man
who fills his quiver | with them!*
He shall not be put to shame
when he speaks with his enemies | in the
gate.

**Glory be to the Father and | to the Son*
and to the Holy | Spirit;
as it was in the be- | ginning,*
is now, and will be forever. | Amen.**

²⁶ **I write these things to you about those
who are trying to deceive you. ²⁷ But the
anointing that you received from him
abides in you, and you have no need that
anyone should teach you. But as his anoint-
ing teaches you about everything, and is
true, and is no lie—just as it has taught you,
abide in him.**

John's intent of writing is to warn the Christians about the danger of accepting false teachers. Why should we be wary of and avoid false teachers? Read 2 John 9-11.

Is this something that can be a danger for us today? Read 2 Timothy 4:3-4.

Read John 14:16-17. With what have you

been anointed? Who is it that teaches us?

God's primary means of teaching us is through His Word and the Sacraments.

In John 16:13-15, Jesus describes what the Holy Spirit will do. Where does the Holy Spirit get what he teaches us? To whom does the Holy Spirit point us?

²⁸ **And now, little children, abide in him, so
that when he appears we may have confi-
dence and not shrink from him in shame at
his coming.**

Again, John is pointing his hearers to the ultimate fulfillment of these things: the day of the Lord's return. How is this truth of Jesus' return reflected in Colossians 3:4?

Read Genesis 3:8-10. How did Adam and Eve react to God's coming to them after they sinned? How is that different from what our reaction will be when Jesus returns?

Read John 15:1-11. John refers often to the idea of "abiding" which echoes Jesus' teaching. Is this abiding active on our part?

²⁹ **If you know that he is righteous, you may
be sure that everyone who practices right-
eousness has been born of him.**

John says this again more forcefully in 3 John 1:11. Should our lives reflect the faith that we have?

What does it mean to be born of him? Read John 3:3-6.

It is important to remember that as John is describing the Christian life and how we should practice righteousness he is grounding

and basing this first in what God has done for us. God saves us first through baptism and we then live out the faith we've been given.

¹ See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are. The reason why the world does not know us is that it did not know him.

How does God show his love for us and for the world according to Jesus in John 3:16?

Does this become more specific in John 1:12-13?

Is our status as God's children simply symbolic? Read 2 Corinthians 5:17.

Read John 15:18-19. Is John's teaching here an application of Jesus' teaching?

² Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is.

How did we become children of God? Read Galatians 3:25-27.

What does John mean that we shall be like Jesus when he appears? Read 1 Corinthians 15:50-52.

Does John's teaching here agree with what Paul says in Romans 8:15-18?

Is this transformation something that we have to wait for? Read 2 Corinthians 3:18.

Read Revelation 1:12-18. Did John see Jesus as he is (i.e. glorified)?

³ And everyone who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure.

How is that we are able to hope in Jesus?

We must continue to walk the line, interpreting John's Epistle through the light of his Gospel and the rest of Scripture. Ultimately, it is Christ who purifies us.

⁴ Everyone who makes a practice of sinning also practices lawlessness; sin is lawlessness.

According to Romans 8:1, in God's eyes are we people who practice lawlessness?

Read Romans 14:23. If someone is apart from Christ, are they able to do anything other than practice lawlessness?

Is John here condemning everyone who sins? See 1 John 1:9.

BIBLE STUDY

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Just as we saw earlier in 1 John, he is making a distinction between those who live a life of sin and who are without faith to those who have faith but still struggle with sin.

⁵ You know that he appeared in order to take away sins, and in him there is no sin.

This verse serves to clarify the previous verse. Look again at John 15:1-11. Is abiding in Christ something that starts with you?

How does John the Baptist describe Jesus in John 1:29?

Why is there no sin in Christ? Read Isaiah 53:4-12.

This is the message of the Gospel of Christ. Is this still a worthwhile message today?

⁶ No one who abides in him keeps on sinning; no one who keeps on sinning has either seen him or known him.

Read John 14:6-12. How is that we are able to see God? Does Jesus say that our lives will be different because we have seen him?

This is a further expression of the same teaching in 1 John 1:6-7. Can those apart from Christ see God?

Closing Hymn: God's Own Child, I Gladly Say It (LSB, 594)

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