

Enraptured Vision of the Beautiful

Promise: all who put their hope in Christ will not be disappointed

Pastor Timothy A. Duesenberg

Revelation 7:2-17; Psalm 149; 1 John 3:1-3; Matthew 5:1-12
(All Saints' Sunday, 11/3/19)

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. — v. 2

Lead In – There are places in Scripture where the elegance and cadence of the King James Version has left an indelible mark on my soul... This morning my prayer for us is that we not only see the truth expressed in our Second Lesson, but that we might behold it!

I. That We Should Be Called the Children of God

- A. Our Lord has called and named us...
- B. More valuable than friendship!
- C. Why the world does not recognize us...

II. Not Fully Apparent Now

- A. Promises – “Already, but not yet.”
- B. Newness of life, and yet we await consummation!
- C. We await seeing Him as He Is! Beatific Vision!

III. The Hope Itself Purifies

- A. We know how our robes are made white...
- B. Blessed are the pure in heart for they...
- C. Faith, hope, and love... the right ordering...

Parting Shot – There are a number of things that intimate or hint at the glory that awaits us in the resurrection of the body on the last day to life eternal. Many of you know that mention of feasting is one of my favorites. Leslie likes mention of music and dancing. But there is also the idea of beauty itself – resplendent beauty. We talk about being the stunning beauty of a pretty woman or handsome man. People speak of being enraptured by a sunset or a magnificent painting. Perhaps you can relate to being transported by a majestic arrangement of music. ... But such bliss will pale in the light of our looking upon our Lord's face.

1 Jn 3:1 KJV Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God.

Gal 3:26-27 for in Christ Jesus you are all sons of God, through faith. For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ.

“Can we find a friend so faithful // Who will all our sorrows share?”

“Our Father who art in heaven.” Here God encourages us to believe that He is truly our Father and we are His children. We therefore are

1 John 3:1-3 ESV

Beatific Vision

¹See 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. ²Beloved, 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. ³And everyone who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure.

to pray to Him with complete confidence just as children speak to their loving father.

Jn 5:24 Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life. He does not come into judgment, but has passed from death to life.

Rom 6:4 We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.

Heb 11:39-40 And all these, though commended through their faith, did not receive what was promised, since God had provided something better for us, that apart from us they should not be made perfect.

1 Cor 15:19 If in this life only we have hoped in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied.

Beatific: making happy, blissful, ecstatic, enraptured, euphoric, exhilarated, intoxicated, rapturous, satisfied, and exuberant.

Rev 7:14 “These are the ones coming out of the great tribulation. They have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.”

Mat 5:8 “Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.”

1 Cor 13:13 So now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love.

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