

1 John 2:23 – 3:3

New American Standard Version

1 **N** ²³ Whoever denies the Son does not have the Father; the one
 2 who confesses the Son has the Father also. ²⁴ As for you, let
 3 **P** that abide in you which you heard from the beginning. If
 4 what you heard from the beginning abides in you, you also
 5 will abide in the Son and in the Father. ²⁵ This is the
 6 promise which He Himself made to us: eternal life. ²⁶ These
 7 things I have written to you concerning those who are trying
 8 to deceive you. ²⁷ As for you, the anointing which you
 9 received from Him abides in you, and you have no need for
 10 anyone to teach you; but as His anointing teaches you about
 11 all things, and is true and is not a lie, and just as it has
 12 taught you, you abide in Him. ²⁸ Now, little children, abide
 13 in Him, so that when He appears, we may have confidence
 14 and not shrink away from Him in shame at His coming. ²⁹ If
 15 you know that He is righteous, you know that everyone also
 16 who practices righteousness is born of Him. ^{3:1} See how
 17 great a love the Father has bestowed on us, that we would
 18 be called children of God; and *such* we are. For this reason
 19 the world does not know us, because it did not know Him.
 20 ² Beloved, now we are children of God, and it has not
 21 appeared as yet what we will be. We know that when He
 22 appears, we will be like Him, because we will see Him just
 23 as He is. ³ And everyone who has this hope *fixed* on Him
 24 purifies himself, just as He is pure.

Observation (What does it say?):

First read through the entire passage once. Then to the left of the text mark the timeframe of John's statements:

P – Past

N – Now (the present)

F – Future

Interpretation (What does it mean?):

After observing the passage:

How would you describe or summarize John's perspective on each timeframe?

- Past

- Present

- Future

Application (What does it mean for me?):

How does your perspective on the past, present, and future correspond to John's?

How does John's perspective encourage or challenge you?

Additional questions for thought and discussion:

- *What is the connection (if any) between John's comments about present righteousness and purification, and his promise of "being like Him" when He appears? Does he suggest any explicit correlation?*
- *John repeatedly mentions "the Son" and "the Father" (see last week's blog about the grammar). He also uses a singular pronoun several times ("He Himself" in v. 25), the anointing "from Him" (v. 27). Who pronoun stand for? Is it the same in all cases, or does John use it differently at different places in the passage?*
- *What parts of this passage reflect things that John included in his Gospel account of Jesus? Do those reflections shed light on John's meaning here?*

Inductive Bible Study

(A few general ideas)

Observation (What does it say?)

*What facts do you **observe** about the passage that help bring out the writer's thought process?*

- Who are the people involved?
- What action takes place?
- What type of literature is it (poetry, history, didactic, etc.)?
- What details are included or left out?
- Are any unusual words used?
- Is there symbolic language?
- What is the grammar of the passage (pronouns, prepositions, verb tenses)?
- Are words or ideas repeated?
- Any comparisons or contrasts?
- Any cause and effect?
- Are there indications of purpose ("in order that...")?
- Are there conclusions ("Therefore...")?
- Are there explanations?
- Does the passage logically break into sections?
- How would you summarize the passage?
- What would be a good "headline" for the passage?

Interpretation (What does it mean?)

*What questions come to mind about the facts that would help you **interpret** the meaning?*

- How would the original readers have understood the passage?
- What is the main emphasis?
- Why does the writer use repetition, or contrast, or unusual words?
- What does the grammar or structure of the passage reveal about the writer's thought pattern?
- Is there a logical sequence in the passage?
- How are different ideas in the passage connected?
- Are there any new ideas or concepts presented?
- Are there difficulties in the passage?

Application (What does it mean for me?)

*What is the impact on your life? What **application** does the Holy Spirit want to show you?*

- Is there a command to obey?
- Is there a promise to be thankful for?
- Is there an attribute of God to worship?
- Is there an example to follow?

**Read nothing into the Scriptures,
but draw everything from them,
and suffer nothing to remain
hidden that is really in them.
J.A. Bengel (1687-1752)**