

Leader

1 Peter 1:3-5 (ESV)

3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, 4 to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, 5 who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

Cong.

1 John 3:1-2 (ESV)

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.

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.

Leader

1John 3:3 (ESV)

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

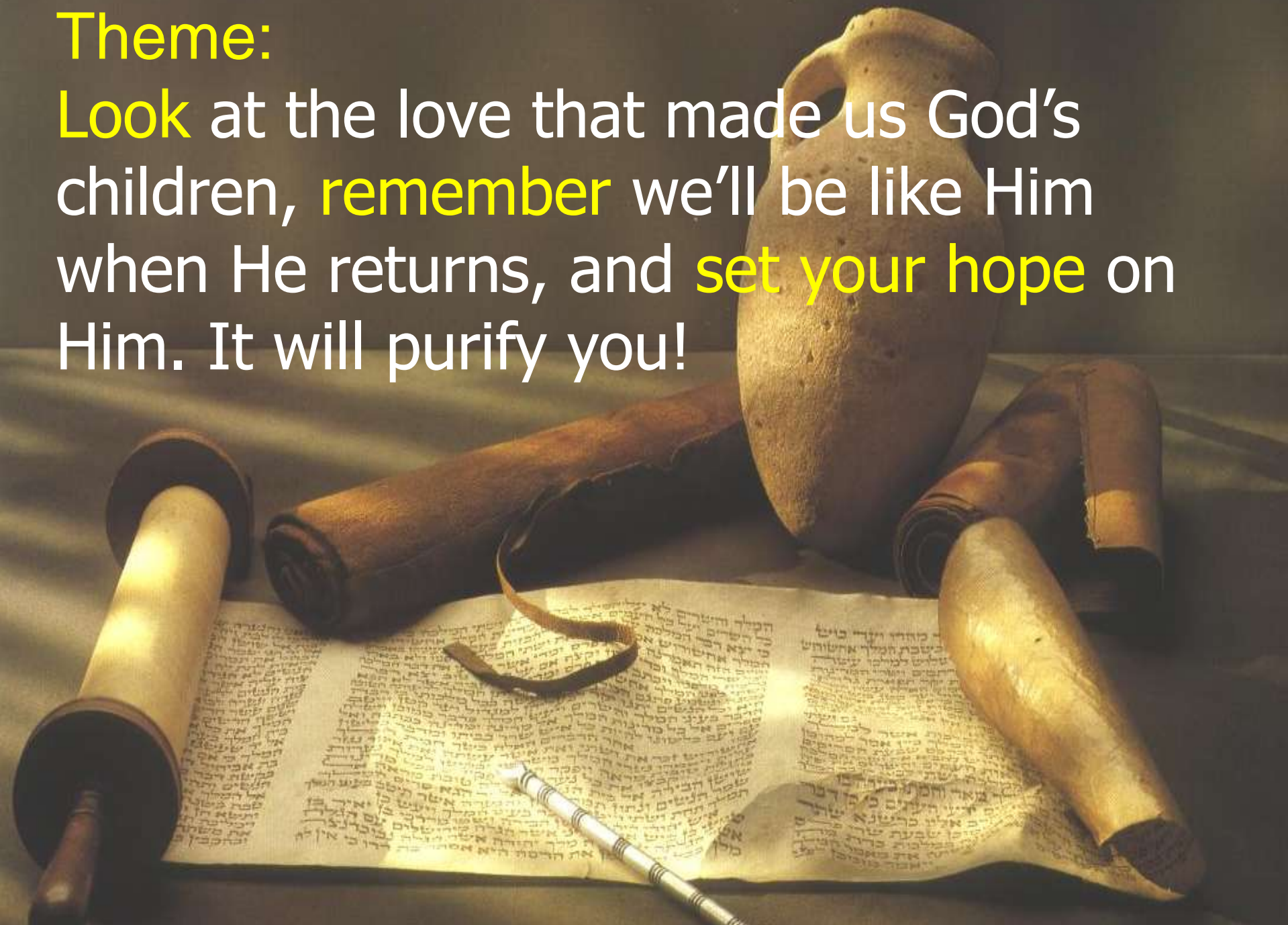


**Test of Love: God's Love Makes us God's
Children**

1 John 3:1-3

Theme:

Look at the love that made us God's children, remember we'll be like Him when He returns, and set your hope on Him. It will purify you!



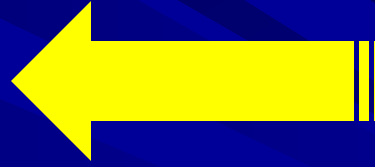
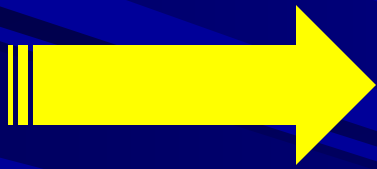
Look at the love that made us God's children! [3:1,2a]

- In Ch 1,2 John focused on *fellowship* with the God of **Light**. In Ch 3,4 on *sonship* in the God of **Love**.
- He continues testing for Truth, Love, and Holiness.
- If you aren't enjoying your sonship something is wrong! Let's find it!

Look at the love that made us God's children! [3:1,2a]

- **Look!** Look at such love that would call us children of God...and **we are!**
- **Realize** that the world doesn't understand us any more than it does Him. It doesn't appreciate our character or conduct.

What we are...

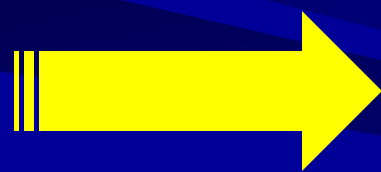


Children
of God--
Now

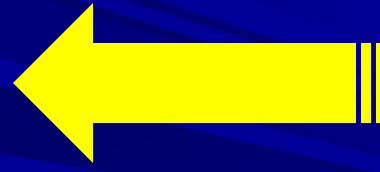
World
doesn't
know us

Remember that we'll be like Him [3:2]

- **Now** we are children of God
- It doesn't look like it yet.



Children
of God--
Now



Doesn't
appear
what we
will be

Remember that we'll be like Him [3:2]

- But when He appears we **will be like Him. How?**
- We will be like Him ***because*** we will see Him as He is.
 - Ask Him to cause you to want to be like Him!



Like
Jesus
then

Remember that we'll be like Him [3:2]

■ When He appears we **will be like** Him.

How?

- Our **bodies** will be transformed. Rom. 8:23
- His **image** (Truth, Love & Holiness) will be fully **restored** & we won't want to sin.
- We'll wear the robe of His **righteousness** and be presented as His **sons**. Rom. 8:23
- **Angels will marvel** at His grace shown in us. 2Thes 1:10, Eph 3:10

What we are...will be...



Children
of God--
Now

?



Like
Jesus--
Then

Set your Hope on Him; it'll purify you! [3:3]

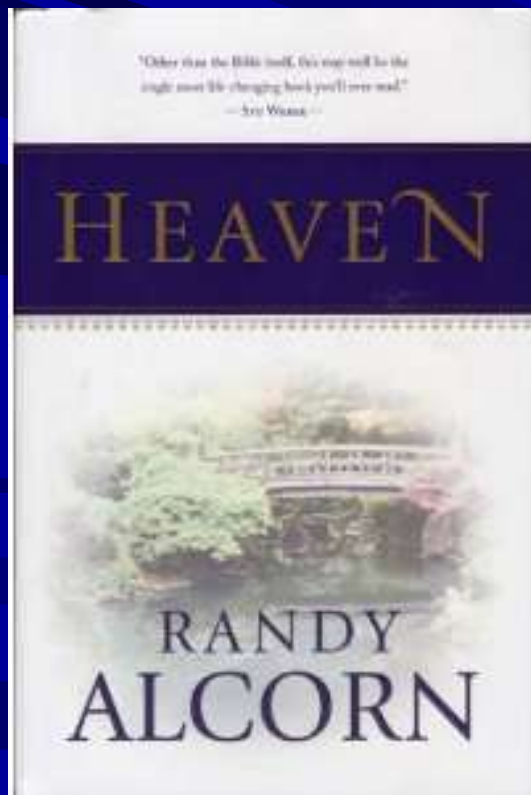
- Set your hope on Him. Hope *motivates*. When we realize who we are (His child) and what we will be (like Him) we'll be motivated toward heaven.

To build this desire:

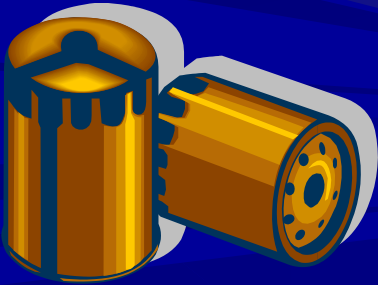
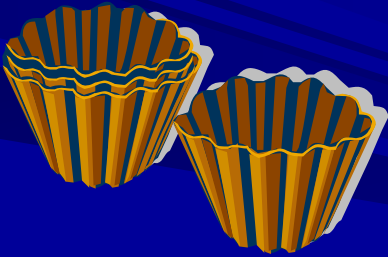
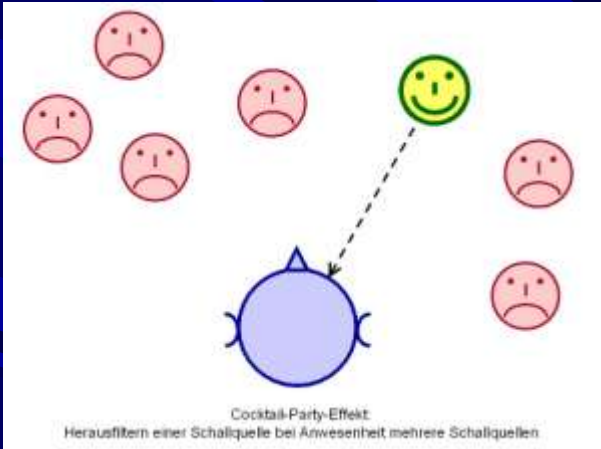
- Ask Him to help you be disillusioned with earth.
 - Affluence tempts with a counterfeit 'heaven' here and now.

Set your Hope on Him; it'll purify you! [3:3]

- Old images of heaven [harps, clouds & angel wings] don't do it justice!
- Get realistic images of heaven.



Audio filter built in

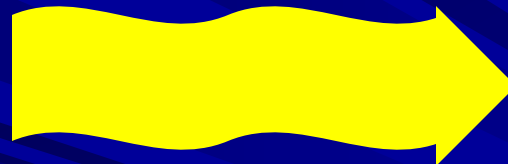


What we are...will be...& should be doing

Hope
Purifies



Children
of God--
Now



Like
Jesus--
Then

Set your Hope on Him; it'll purify you! [3:3]

- Purify yourself. Hope *purifies*.
- **How?** Hope isn't wishing; It's holding on to Him, knowing we'll be like Him.
- Hope motivates us to **focus** on God. As we act by faith, His grace empowers.
- Am I enjoying my sonship? (Have it?)
- Do I want a pure heart as badly as I want pure water, pure food or pure air?