**SERMON OUTLINE**

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| **SERMON TITLE:** | When We All Get to Heaven |
| **SERMON REFERENCE:** | 1 John 3:1-3 |
| **LWF SERMON NUMBER:** | #2113 |
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1. INTRODUCTION
   1. Not everyone is enjoying life.
      1. Many people are living lives of quiet desperation.
   2. To know Jesus is life eternal.
      1. John 10:10
      2. A rich man is poor without Jesus.
      3. A strong man is weak without Jesus.
      4. An educated man is ignorant until he comes to know the Lord Jesus Christ.
   3. If you don’t know Jesus, what hope do you have?
      1. Those without Christ have no hope at all.
   4. Without Jesus, nothing makes sense.
      1. Man is ignorant of his past and afraid of his future.
         1. So, he is somewhere between mystery and misery.
   5. If you know the Lord Jesus Christ, then you have the sweetest fellowship this side of Heaven.
      1. Just think of the fellowship we will have when we all get to Heaven.
   6. 1 John 3:1-3
   7. Today’s message will focus on three things from our passage in 1 John:
      1. The Christian’s dignity
      2. The Christian’s destiny
      3. The Christian’s duty
2. The christian’s dignity: What we are (1 john 3:1)
   1. When the apostle John said, “What manner,” he was telling us to, “Look at that! Behold it!”
      1. “What manner” is a Greek phrase that means “something from out of this world.”
         1. “What manner of love” literally means:
            1. What other worldly kind of love.
            2. What love not from this planet.
            3. What indescribable, unknown quality is this love.
   2. We are not just “called” sons of God, but we “are” sons and daughters of God.
      1. If you are a child of God, then you are a royal blueblood.
         1. You are a child of the King.
   3. Hebrews 2:10-12
      1. Everything was made for the Lord Jesus and by Him.
      2. “Many sons” refers to Christians.
      3. The word “sanctify” means “to be set apart for God.”
      4. Jesus is in me, and I am in Christ, and we are one together.
      5. Jesus is not ashamed of us.
         1. He is not ashamed to call us His brother or sister.
      6. This passage says that they are all of one.
         1. This means that we share the same nature.
            1. We are partakers of the divine nature.
            2. We are blood brothers of the Lord Jesus Christ.
         2. Jesus has our nature because He took human nature.
         3. We have His nature because we have been born of God and are sons and daughters of God.
            1. We are next of kin to the Holy Trinity.
   4. John 17:21-23
      1. This passage says that God loves us as He loves His Son Jesus.
      2. There is nothing we can do to make God love us any more than He already loves us.
         1. He loves us as much as He loves His own Son, Jesus Christ.
   5. Romans 8:29
      1. Jesus is the first-born Son in a family of many brothers.
      2. We are brothers and sisters of Jesus, sons of God literally.
      3. Galatians 4:6
         1. “Abba Father” means “Daddy Father.”
         2. As believers, we have the Spirit of God in our hearts, and we can speak to God and call Him “Abba Father.”
   6. Because we are children of God and Jesus Christ is our brother, we have the Father’s care.
      1. We are not beggars.
         1. Our Father is obligated to take care of us, and He will.
      2. Matthew 6:26
         1. The Lord Jesus is saying in this passage, “What farmer would feed his chickens and starve his children?”
         2. If you are a child of God, then God is obligated to take care of you.
            1. Some may ask, then, why they don’t have money in the bank.

You don’t need money in the bank if you have God.

Psalm 37:25

We should ask ourselves if we would rather have a warehouse full of bread or a father who owns a bakery.

Matthew 6:11

* + 1. If God feeds the fowls of the air, then He will take care of us.
  1. We have the Father’s correction.
     1. God will sometimes engineer our trouble.
     2. Hebrews 12:5-7
        1. When God chastens us, it doesn’t mean that He doesn’t love us.
           1. It means that He does love us.
        2. God is not rejecting us when He chastens us.
           1. He is rejecting the sin in our lives.
           2. God chastens us because He loves us.
  2. We have the Father’s compassion.
     1. Psalm 103:13
     2. His heart is broken when our hearts are broken; therefore, it ought to be easy to talk with Him.
        1. We don’t talk to Him as judge.
           1. He is judge; but for us, He is more than judge.
        2. We don’t talk to Him as ruler, though He is ruler.
        3. We don’t talk to Him as King, though He is King.
        4. We talk to Him as Father.
           1. Galatians 4:6
  3. We have the Father’s companionship.
     1. We are never alone.
     2. We can have a relationship with Almighty God.
     3. 1 John 3:1
     4. He is our Father, and Christ is our brother.
        1. The Lord Jesus is not ashamed to call us His brother.
        2. We are part of the family of God.
  4. We may think at times that He has forgotten us, but He hasn’t.
     1. Our Father is watching over us.
     2. 1 John 3:1

1. the christian’s destiny: what we will be (1 john 3:2)
   1. There are some things we don’t know.
      1. This should be comforting to us to know that there are some things we’re not supposed to know.
      2. So many of us don’t witness to others because we’re afraid someone will ask us a question that we don’t know the answer to.
         1. It’s okay to tell them that we don’t know.
         2. When we’re honest about what we don’t know, then maybe they will believe us when we share things that we do know.
      3. There are many things about the future that we don’t know.
         1. These things have been kept from us on purpose.
         2. 2 Corinthians 12:2-4
         3. John 16:12
         4. Daniel 12:4
      4. We don’t know what we’re going to be like when we get to Heaven.
         1. We don’t know what we will look like.
         2. We don’t know what age we will be.
         3. We shouldn’t even try to answer these questions.
            1. We have hints and clues, but there are some things that we can’t be dogmatic about.
            2. One thing that we do know is that we will be like Jesus.

1 John 3:2

* 1. There are three things that we can certainly know.
     1. Christ is going to appear.
        1. Jesus Christ is coming back to this Earth.
        2. 1 John 3:2
           1. John didn’t say “If He should appear,” but “When He should appear.”
        3. It is like a great drama being played out in two acts.
           1. In Act One, there are five scenes:

Scene One: The Birth at Bethlehem.

Scene Two: The Lad of Nazareth.

Scene Three: The Preacher and the Miracle Worker.

Scene Four: The Crucified Son of God.

Scene Five: The Buried, Risen and Ascended Christ.

* + - * 1. Now, we are waiting for the second act to begin.

Christ is getting ready to step back onto the stage of human history.

* + - * 1. This drama is not make-believe, but it is real.
      1. Jesus went to glory, and He’s coming back to glory.
      2. He is coming back to this Earth literally, visibly and actually.
    1. We will see Him as He is.
       1. 1 John 3:2
       2. We will see Him, not as He was, but as He is.
          1. “As He was” refers to when He was here in His humanity walking the shores of Galilee.

That was when He was here wearing a crown of thorns.

* + - * 1. We are going to see Him when He comes again and is resplendent in His glory.
        2. John 17:5

Jesus prays for Himself to return to Heaven to be with the Father as it was before the world was.

* + - * 1. John 17:24

Jesus prays for us to be with Him in Heaven and behold His glory as it was before the world was.

Our loved ones who have gone to Heaven are beholding the glory of Jesus Christ.

* + 1. We will be like Him.
       1. 1 John 3:2
          1. In this verse, John links together “being like Him” and “seeing Him.”

We could not bear to look upon Him in our current bodies without being transformed.

* + - 1. 1 Timothy 6:14-16
         1. Jesus dwells in such glory that we could not even begin to approach it.
         2. The Lord Jesus dwells in light.

1 Timothy 6:16

* + - 1. We will have to be like Him in order to see Him as He is.
      2. Psalm 17:15
  1. We do not know what our resurrected bodies will be like or what Heaven will be like, but we do know that we will be satisfied.

1. The christian’s duty: what we should do (1 john 3:3)
   1. We ought to be looking for His coming.
      1. The word “hope” in the Bible means “absolute certainty mingled with anticipation.”
      2. The coming of Jesus is a divine certainty mingled with, “I can hardly wait for it to get here.”
   2. We ought to be living for His coming.
      1. 1 John 3:3
      2. 1 John 2:28
      3. Are you ready for Jesus to come if He were to come today?
         1. Is your heart pure?
         2. If you knew that Jesus were coming back today, would you make some changes in your life?
            1. If so, then make those changes because you don’t know when He is coming.
      4. 2 Corinthians 7:1
      5. Some think that it doesn’t matter how they live as long as they get to Heaven.
         1. They think that even if they go to Heaven second class, then they’ll be satisfied.
            1. But it won’t satisfy God, and it won’t satisfy them.
      6. As Christians, we want to live a holy life, not because we’re afraid of what God may do to us if we don’t, but because we don’t want to hurt God.
         1. This is the difference between law and love.
   3. We ought to be longing for His coming.
      1. Some people think that they might miss out on something in life if Jesus were to come back now.
         1. But the best thing that could happen to any of us and all of us is for Jesus Christ to come right now.
      2. It is all gain.
         1. Philippians 1:21
      3. All days will pale into insignificance to the day when Jesus comes and our eyes behold the King.
         1. The one who opened to us the doors of grace will open to us the doors of glory.
2. conclusion
   1. 1 John 3:3
   2. Those who are not saved will miss the coming of the Lord Jesus in His glory.
   3. The only way to be a son or a daughter of God is to be born into His family.
      1. John 1:11-12
   4. If the Lord Jesus were to come back today, would you be ready to meet Him?
   5. If you’re unsaved, you can be saved today.
   6. Call upon Jesus today.
      1. Ask Him to come into your life.
      2. Repent (turn) from your sins, and turn to Jesus. Ask Him to forgive you of your sins, and acknowledge Him as Lord of your life.
      3. Romans 3:23
      4. Romans 10:9-10
      5. Romans 10:13
      6. Acts 16:31
      7. John 3:16