



DATE: 22 May 2024 WED

TEXT: **1 John 3:1**

TITLE: **:: Like John**

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

1 John 3:1

REVIEW

Think like David: God's created works

Think like Asaph: God's previous actions

INTRODUCTION

- of all the Apostles, John was the youngest man to walk with Christ during His earthly ministry

John was also the last of the Apostles to die

John was the only Apostle not to die a martyr's death...he was an old man when he passed away

- John spent ten years as a prisoner on the island of Patmos under Emperor Domitian

even in that barren place, John was thinking about Christ and what He had accomplished on the cross

Revelation 1:10

I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day...

John 8:32

And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.

verse 36 If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed.

- John was the “disciple whom Jesus loved,” so we know he focused on the love of God, etc.
- John was the only Apostle at the foot of the cross
remember, as the firstborn son, Jesus gave His responsibility for Mary to John **(19:26-27)**
- John was the first Apostle at the empty tomb, and the first one to believe in the resurrection
- John was the first one to recognize the resurrected Savior on the Sea of Galilee
- John is the author of the gospel that bears his name, three epistles, and *Revelation*
- whereas the other three writers of the Gospels recorded their accounts of the life of Christ within decades after the cross, John waited some 60 years before he ever sat down to write what he knew

when he wrote, he included more details about the life and death of Jesus than any other writer

of the 877 verses in John’s gospel, 342 of them deal with lengthy sermons Christ had preached

so we know John had been paying attention

NOTE: traditionally, it is believed that John moved to the city of Ephesus and established the first Christian community there...whether he did or not, we *know* he became a target for the wrath of Rome

- when we read John’s writings in light of the cross, we understand what an impact that moment in history had on the rest of his life

in tonight’s text, we consider four words that will help us to focus on Christ’s redemptive work on Calvary’s cross

1. PONDER

= **to think about something carefully**

in Greek, the word John used means “to recall with certainty”

it seems John never got over the events surrounding Jesus’ death on the cross

all throughout Jesus’ earthly ministry, He told His disciples repeatedly that He would be put to death

Mark 8:31-33 (9:30-32) 10:32-34

when it finally happened, it impacted John in such a way that his entire life changed

NOTE: what events in your life have impacted you in a similar manner ???

John 1:10-11

He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not. He came unto his own, and his own received him not.

verse 14 And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.

here, John seems to be specifically thinking about his time with Christ on the Mount of Transfiguration

NOTE: there is an article available on the internet entitled “A Medical Doctor Analyzes The Crucifixion” written by Dr. C. Truman Davis

Chapter 12 in *The True Jesus* by David Limbaugh is a good read, as well

2. PEDIGREE

= the background or history of a person or thing, especially as conferring distinction or quality:

in Greek, the phrase *what manner of love* can literally mean "from what country"

to know a culture, one can begin to understand *who, what, and why* a person is the way they are

John had pondered the love of God his entire life...what kind of love would sacrifice so much in order to receive so little in return???

Romans 5:8

But God commendeth his love towards us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

John 3:16 For God so loved the world...

the word each of these writers chose was **AGAPE** and is only used to describe the love God has for us

unconditional love, pure and never-ending

this word **NEVER** appears in classical Greek

it was a concept Greek writers never considered or observed in their culture

NOTE: as a parent or spouse, consider all of the things you do for the people you love simply because you love them...in turn, do you recognize these actions directed toward you from others???

keep in mind...this is the **FATHER**, the all-knowing, all-powerful, self-sustaining Creator and Possessor of Heaven and Earth

He didn't have to love us...He chose to

3. PRODIGAL

= **having or giving something on a lavish scale; extravagant**

the word *bestow* seems rather tame; in fact, it carries the idea of a lavish consideration, over and above what is necessary

by comparison, the modern usage of *love* implies a great affection, but also a limit to what can be expected

I love you...but

I love you...because

I love you...until

God never asked us to love Him and we have never done anything to deserve His love

1 John 4:9-10

In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him. Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.

when John wrote these words, he was closing in on being 100 years of age...he never got over the fact that God loved him that much

4. POSITION

= a particular order or way in which someone or something is placed or arranged

the phrase *the sons of God* identifies our position with God because of the cross of Christ

by accepting Christ's redemption, we enter into the family of God, with all its rights and privileges...forever

Romans 8:16-17

The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God: and if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ;

to have God as our Heavenly Father is a concept found only in the New Testament

the Old Testament saints did not believe they could approach God on such a familiar level

Jehovah (-Jireh, Nissi, Rapha, etc.)

NOTE: only Adam is called a son of God, and then, not until the New Testament...**Luke 3:38**

according to the New Testament, there are three ways to get into the family of God

by birth **John 3:5-7**

by adoption **Romans 8:15**

by marriage **Romans 7:4**

God loved us so much, and wanted us in His family, that He made "triple-certain" we would get in

In meditating on the cross of Christ, understand that it is the **WORK** of the cross, not the **ICON** of the cross that is to be our focus. Many fall into the trap of using the symbol as a focal point, only to venture into idol worship.

The world knoweth us not......don't be surprised that the world doesn't get it. Even John, at the end of his life, was still marveling at how God could love him. Most people never think that deeply, or that long, about anything.

for further study, here's some more words to consider as you meditate on the cross:

Substitution...just as the lamb in the Old Testament took the place of the sinner on the altar of burnt sacrifice, Christ took our place and died as the sacrifice for our sins.

Redemption...it means "to purchase; to buy back." Not only did Christ die for us, but He also paid the price for our sins, purchasing us and making us His own.

Propitiation...this means "satisfied; covered." When Christ shed His blood and died on the cross, that satisfied the demands of God's Law.

Reconciliation...in that Christ restored man's fellowship with God. In a sense, He "balanced the books" for us before God, showing that we owed nothing else.

Daily cleansing...not only does the cross pay our debt, but it keeps it paid. On a daily basis, we can know that God will never stop loving us, and will never require more than has already been paid.



THINK reading list:

Psalm 22 Ephesians 2:11-18 Colossians 2:9-15



THINK playlist:

When I Survey The Wondrous Cross
Beautiful, Terrible Cross CBU Choir