



“Dear Children, If You Thus Hope, Purify Yourself!”

1 John 3:1-10

Sunday | February 4th, 2018 | Pastor Patrick Bowler

CONSULT THE SCRIPTURES

Luke 22:31-34, 54-62 (esp. vs. 61)

1 John 3:1-10

2 Cor. 7:1

(See also John 13:36-38, 21:15-19; 1 Pet. 5:8-10, Php. 3:20, 21; Rom. 6-8)

CONSULT THE SCHOLARS

[Martyn Lloyd-Jones]

“Holiness, according to the New Testament, is an inevitable deduction from doctrine; it must never be regarded as something in and of itself.”¹

“Holiness is not something we are called upon to do in order that we may become something; it is something we are to do because of what we already are... I am not to live a good and holy life in order that I may become a Christian; I am to live the holy life because I am a Christian.”²

“The New Testament teaching about holiness is not one which tells me that all I have to do is to let myself go and to surrender myself, to give up effort and striving. It is not just telling me that all I have to do is to die and get rid of myself and forget myself and then life will come in. No! It is active, and I am told to purify myself ‘even as he is pure.’”³

DISCUSS

1. Read Lk. 22:31-34, 54-62. Pastor Patrick said that he found vs. 61 to be particularly “haunting.” Why? Do you agree with that word choice? Why or why not?

2. Share thoughts concerning the Apostle Peter and his story. What stands out to you? Pastor Patrick confessed a soft spot for Peter because Peter’s story reminds him of his own. What do you think? Where do you see your own story in Peter’s story?
3. Lk. 22:62 states that Peter “went out and wept bitterly.” Have you ever wept “bitterly?” From your own experience, describe what that might have felt like. Why do you think Peter responded in this way?
4. Read 1 Jn 21:1-19 together as a group and discuss. What stands out to you? How significant do you think this moment was for Peter and Why? Can you relate?
5. Read 1 Jn. 3:1-3. Martyn Lloyd-Jones says that “[holiness] must never be regarded as something in and of itself” (see above). What does he mean? Why is this important? What would be the result of regarding holiness “in and of itself?”
6. John says, “Everyone who thus hopes purifies himself as he [Jesus] is pure.” What is his relationship to purification? Again, why is that important?
7. Pastor Patrick said purification is an action on our part. What did he mean and what does that mean for us as Christians? (See 2 Cor. 7:1)
8. Read 1 Pet. 5:8-10. What stands out in light of what you know about Peter’s story?
9. John says that Jesus appeared to do two things, what are they (1 Jn. 3:4-10)? How are they related? Why is this significant?
10. What immediate applications can be made in light of this text?

¹Martyn Lloyd-Jones, *Life In Christ: Studies in 1 John* (Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2002), p.298.

²*Ibid.* p. 298-299.

³*Ibid.* p. 302.