

Apply The Word

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Message Info

Title:

Confident in Christ

Speaker:

Steve Heitland

Date:

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Scriptures:

1 John 2:28-3:10

Theme: Fight for holiness so you can be confident and discerning.

Introduction: Christmas is a time of hope, as the world celebrates the idea of the love of God manifest in Jesus coming to earth. Christians understand hope more deeply, as confidence in the future rooted in who God is and what he has done. So Christians engage Christmas more deeply, as we live in the time between the first and second comings of Christ, waiting for his return. In this passage, John is at work to help us to be confident before the Lord and to be discerning of good and evil as we wait for Jesus.

We can trace his argument through 3 points:

1. Abide in righteous confidence (2:28-29)

As a child finds confidence and comfort in her father's love, so John wants us to be able to stand confident before the Lord on Judgment Day.

That confidence comes through abiding in Christ. As we trust in him we experience his grace and we know that we are forgiven and righteous.

John also shows how the righteous fruit in our lives testify to the reality of God's work in us. If we behave righteously it is because we have been born again.

2. Behold his transforming love (3:1-6)

We are commanded to look at, to behold, the marvel of the love of God, esp. as we experience it in being made children of God.

But we must also recognize that the world will not approve or esteem us because it does not honor or glorify the Lord. Christians will not receive the world's praise. Instead, we will receive the glory of the age to come. When Jesus returns, we will be glorified "because we shall see him as he is."

As this hope has been produced in us, what it also produces is a desire for holiness.

Everyone who hopes in Jesus seeks after purity.

John also shows how sin is lawlessness. It is not just disobedience, but the rejection of God. It is the attempt to remove God from his place of authority in our lives.

3. Discern good from evil (3:7-10)

John urges his readers to not be deceived, and he gives us a criterion to discern true Christians from those who are false: look deeply at their behavior.

False teachers do not obey Christ and they do not love his people. They are ultimately living for themselves.

Those who have experienced God's grace grow in maturity by continuing to pursue holy obedience and love for others.

Questions:

1. Are you confident in God's forgiveness and love for you?
2. Are you pursuing holiness?
3. What are you most passionate about in life?