

# The Hope That Changes Us

Scripture: **1 John 3:2–3**

Series: **Doctrine & Devotion: A Study in the First Epistle of John**

Sunday, July 12, 2015



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## Overview

In our distress and distraction, we should have hope not only in the work of Jesus on the cross, but in His return. Our hope in Christ's return is what gives us confidence and character in this life.

## Corroborating Texts

Ephesians 2:8; Romans 8:15; Luke 11:9–12; Romans 8:22–23; Ephesians 1:4–10; Acts 1:9–11; Hebrews 9:28

## Discussion Questions

1. What does “eschatology” mean? [the study of the end times] Is knowing our theology of the end times critical to our faith and relationship with Jesus? What do we know “the end” to truly be? [the beginning of eternity]
2. How do we describe our current state when it comes to salvation? What does it look like when we wrestle with the concept of “already but not yet” on a weekly basis? Compare your own heart condition when it comes to patience of earthly things to the way our patience and eagerness pertains to Christ's return. Does it line up? Which do we have more trouble with?
3. How is our salvation experienced now? [see verse 2a] What is our hope for salvation in that which is yet to come? Upon Christ's ascension (and reiterated in verse 2b), what was promised to us? Why is this assurance not arrogant?
4. What is the difference between turning from sin and purifying our hearts? [we are not purified through works; we are purified by Jesus Christ] How is heart purification accomplished?
5. Why are we, even as people of God, hesitant to pray for Jesus to come back? What makes us long for Christ's return? How can we, as a group, learn to anticipate Christ's return in a greater way?
6. When thinking of heaven, what are we each most excited for? Discuss how we see each of these things as glimpses in *this* life.