

1 John 3 – Let us Love One Another (Part 1)

INTRODUCTION

The extraordinary love of God towards mankind, and the effects of it. (1-3)

The Command to Love

(1) Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us (given to us), that we should be called children of God (and so we are! Therefore, the world does not know us, (and the reason is) because it did not know Him.

(2) Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed (to us) what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed (when He appears), we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is.

(3) And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.

John's words here provide us a beautiful yet sobering reminder to us of a few things:

(1a) Behold

Behold - to see or observe (a thing or person, especially a remarkable or impressive one).

Bible Definition

Behold – (Short) to see, observe, take notice, consider, look by faith, with wonder and astonishment

Behold – (Detailed definition)

1. To fix the eyes upon; to see with attention; to observe with care.
 - i. "Behold the lamb of God which taketh away the sin of the world." **John 1.**
2. In a less intensive sense, to look upon; to see.
 - i. "When he beheld the serpent of brass, he lived" **Num. 21.**
3. To look; to direct the eyes to an object.
 - i. "And I beheld, and lo, in the midst of the throne, a lamb, as if it had been slain". **Rev.5.**
4. To fix the attention upon an object; to attend; to direct or fix the mind. The word is much used in this manner for exciting attention, or admiration. It is in the imperative mode, expressing command, or exhortation.
 - i. "Behold, I stand at the door and knock." **Rev.3.**

Explanation

BEHOLD!

To "behold" means to "see, to view, to face, to look out, regard, watch, consider, to behold intensely, to observe fully, to see mentally or prophetically, to look with attention and earnestness, to survey with accuracy, earnest spiritual contemplation, to look at purposely, to perceive, apprehend, learn, know, calling attention to what may be seen or heard."

To "behold" for the Christian is to look to God, to Jesus and to the Holy Spirit to see, observe and comprehend His will and ways through His Word, the Bible. It means we have a choice – a choice to behold or not to behold. It represents the responsibility that is our part in the Christian walk. We behold the ways of God, then behold our own lives. As a result of that beholding we seek to align ourselves more and more with that which we are beholding. **"Behold" is a responsible word.** It is a call to keep our eyes open, to make sure we are seeing and hearing clearly and accurately, so we

can make those decisions that will glorify God. “Behold” is a prophetic word. It beautifully describes someone who is focused on pleasing their Master.

Why is it that there is so much spiritual blindness today? People have not taken the time to Behold the Truth. They need to “**Behold the Man!**” so they can then “**Behold your King!**”

⁵ Then Jesus came out, wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe. And *Pilate* said to them, “**Behold the Man!**” ...

¹⁴ Now ^(M) it was the Preparation Day of the Passover, and about the sixth hour. And he said to the Jews, “**Behold your King!**” (John 19:5,14)

Once we have beheld Him (Jesus), we do not need anyone to explain to us Who He is! Why? Because we have beheld Him for ourselves and know indeed that this is the Christ, the Savior of the world. We also will crown Him as King in our lives!

⁴¹ And many more believed because of His own word. ⁴² Then they said to the woman, “Now we believe, ... for we ourselves have heard *Him* and we know that this is indeed **the Christ, the Savior of the world.**” (John 4:41-42)

The result of beholding was revelation – revelation of Who Jesus was (is), and out of that comes responsibility to obey that which we have beheld.

There is so much involved in the meaning and outworking of the word “behold”! To me it describes the Bible, Christianity, the Prophetic, and my responsibility to God very well. – *Rodney Francis*.

READ: John 1:29-37 (The Lamb of God)

²⁹ The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, “**Behold!** The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! ³⁰ This is He of whom I said, ‘After me comes a Man who is preferred before me, for He was before me.’ ³¹ I did not know Him; but that He should be revealed to Israel, therefore I came baptizing with water.” ³² And John bore witness, saying, “I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and He remained upon Him. ³³ I did not know Him, but He who sent me to baptize with water said to me, ‘Upon whom you see the Spirit descending, and remaining on Him, this is He who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.’ ³⁴ And I have seen and testified that this is the Son of God.” ³⁵ Again, the next day, John stood with two of his disciples. ³⁶ And looking at Jesus as He walked, he said, “Behold the Lamb of God!” ³⁷ The two disciples heard him speak, and they followed Jesus.

Please Pray This Prayer:

“Dear Eternal and Loving Father, I come to You in Jesus’ mighty name. Help me to **behold** You more and more, to take the time to simply sit and observe Who You are, and why You have chosen me to carry Your name today and beyond. Cause my perception and focus to be more and more challenged, and my life simplified through my beholding of You and Your Wonderful Word. In Jesus’ name I pray, Amen.”

<http://www.gospel.org.nz/index.php/articles/barnabas-bulletins/archives/127-0037-behold>