

1 John 2:28-3:3, Bible Devotions

□ Monday - The King and I.

1 John 2:28

The members of the king's court approach him with a confidence born out of familiarity: daily they abide in his presence, they speak as old friends, yet never forgetting his position and theirs. And when the trumpets sound and the king in all his majesty makes his royal appearance, though others shrink back in fear, they greet their sovereign with a smile. Dear Christian, are you such a one? Do you abide in the King's presence? John writes, "And now, little children, *abide in Him*, so that when He appears, we may have confidence and not shrink away from Him in shame at His coming" (1 John 2:28).

Read Hebrews 4:16; 1 John 3:21

□ Tuesday - Practice Makes Perfect.

1 John 2:29

The Bible speaks of two kinds of righteousness: positional and practical. The first is Christ's righteousness *imputed* to the believer's account on the basis of faith (Rom. 4:3, 5) – this is justification (Rom. 3:28). The second is Christ's righteousness progressively *imparted* to the believer through daily practice – this is sanctification. Can one be born-again with the first, but not the second? Impossible! John writes, "If you know that He is righteous, you know that everyone also who *practices righteousness* is born of Him" (1 John 2:29).

Read Hebrews 12:14

□ Wednesday - Unquenchable Love.

1 John 3:1

Romans 8:35,38-39 explores every possible obstacle that might come between the believer and Christ's love: [1] Various kinds of tribulation are listed first (v.35). Yes, "In this world *you will have* tribulation," but neither tribulation, nor distress, nor persecution, nor famine, nor nakedness, nor peril, nor the sword can separate us from His love, for He has "overcome the world" (John 16:33). [2] Life and death are listed next (v.38), but even in the valley of the shadow of death, "Thou art with Me" (Psa. 23:4). [3] Angels and principalities cannot withhold Him for He has "triumphed over them" (Col. 2:15; John 12:31; 1 John 3:8). [4] Shall anything past, present, or future restrain His love? Never, for He loves us "with an *everlasting* love" (Jer. 31:3). [5] Height cannot separate us from Him, for His lovingkindness *extends* to the heavens, His faithfulness *reaches* to the skies (Psa. 36:5). [6] Depth cannot undermine His love, for He has humbled Himself (Phil. 2:3-8) to the "uttermost" (Heb. 7:25, KJV). [7] Neither shall any other created thing stand between us and Him who upholds all things by the word of His power (Heb. 1:3; cf. Col 1:17). "Behold, how great a love the Father has bestowed upon us ..." (1 John 3:1).

Read Jeremiah 31:3

□ Thursday - Children of God.

1 John 3:1

"For consider your calling, brethren, that there were not many wise according to the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble; but God has chosen the foolish things of the world to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to shame the things which are strong, and the base things of the world and the despised God has chosen, the things that are not, that He might nullify the things that are" (1 Cor. 1:26-28). "Behold how great a love the Father has bestowed upon us, that *we* (the foolish, the weak, and the base things) should be called children of God; and such we are." (1 John 3:1).

Read 1 Timothy 1:15

□ Friday - Metamorphosis.

1 John 3:2

"When He appears, we shall be like Him" (1 John 3:2) – this is a promise of inconceivable proportions. Yes, in the twinkling of an eye we shall be changed (1 Cor. 15:51-53). But don't wait – let the metamorphosis begin! "And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect" (Rom. 12:2).

Read 1 Corinthians 15:35-58