



THE WORD *Alive*

The Preaching Ministry of
Ashley River Baptist Church

RESURRECTION REALITIES:

TRANSFORMATION – WE SHALL BE LIKE HIM

1 John 2:28-3:3

²⁸ And now, dear children, continue in him, so that when he appears we may be confident and unashamed before him at his coming. ²⁹ If you know that he is righteous, you know that everyone who does what is right has been born of him. 3:1 How great is the love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are! The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. ² Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when he appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is. ³ Everyone who has this hope in him purifies himself, just as he is pure”.

Those who shall be like him have...

I. A PERSISTENT DESIRE

“dear children, continue in him.”

Continue: abide; remain; being at home in Christ; in constant union with Christ. Christianity is not an initiation at the beginning, but a relationship throughout life.

The **ULTIMATE REASON** for continuing in Christ:

“so that when he appears, we may be confident.”

Confidence: freedom in speaking, unreserved in speech; free and fearless confidence, bold assurance.

“unashamed before him at his coming” (2:28).

An **IMMEDIATE EVIDENCE** that I’m ready for that meeting.

Proof: My conduct as it reveals character; *“Everyone who does what is right has been born of Him”.* (v.29).

There is a definite family resemblance in God’s family

Those who shall be like him have...

II. A PRESENT DIGNITY

“How great is the love the Father has lavished on us.” (3:1)

The world around us has no conception of who we are; in fact the world cannot have.

1 Cor. 2:14 *“The man without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him, and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually discerned.”*

This is a prime motivation and evidence that we really belong to God.

Those who shall be like him have...

III. A PROMISED DESTINY

We live between the “now” and the “not yet”.

Our destiny is **CONCEALED:** *“what we will be has not yet been known.”*

We see through a glass darkly.

1 Cor. 13:12 *“Now we see but a poor reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known.”*

Our destiny is **COMPARED:** *“we know that when he appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is”* 1 John 3:2

When we gaze at him, we shall instantly be made like Him.

“who, by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body.” Phil 3:21

Our destiny is **COMPELLING:** *“Everyone who has this hope in him purifies himself, just as he is pure.”* (1 John 32:4) Comprehensive and inclusive, *“Everyone”*.

Purifies himself: personal cleansing of the heart; a strenuous habitual self-effort; dedicate oneself

James 4:8 *“Come near to God and he will come near to you. Wash your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded.”*

1 Peter 1:22 *“Now that you have purified yourselves by obeying the truth so that you have sincere love for your brothers, love one another deeply, from the heart.”*

CHALLENGE

With the resurrection comes the reality that we will not always be as we are now. We have the assurance we will be transformed into the likeness of Jesus Christ. This should motivate, energize and give you purpose.