

# The Children of God

## Introduction:

- A. Text— 1 John 2:29-3:10.
- B. By our study this morning we should be able to determine whether we are a child of God, and whether we, as a child of God, are living in a way which will distinguish us from Satan's children.

## II. Who Is Born Of God? — 2:29.

- A. What is involved in doing righteousness?
  - 1. Vine says righteousness is, "whatever conforms to the revealed will of God." (page, 970)
  - 2. This is seen to be the definition from several passages— Ps.119:172; Lk.1:5,6; cf.Rom.6:16-18.
    - a. Abel was righteous since he obeyed God's will— 3:12; Heb.11:4; Rom.10:17.
- B. We cannot substitute our own righteousness for the righteousness of God— Rom.10:1-3.
  - 1. Cain is a perfect example of this— Gen.4:1-8.
- C. For a person to be born of God he must do righteousness, or obey the commandments of God.
  - 1. We must be born again to see the kingdom of God— Jn.3:3-5.
  - 2. This new birth involves obeying all the commandments of God— Heb.11:6; Acts 17:30; Rom.10:10; Acts 2:38; Mk.16:16; Gal.3:26,27; Rom.6:3,4.

## III. The Blessings Of Being A Child Of God.

- A. **We are recipients of God's love— 3:1.**
  - 1. When man sinned (Gen.3) he was no longer able to receive God's love— cf.Isaiah 59:1,2.
  - 2. When Jesus died it became possible for man to receive adoption into God's family— Gal.4:4-7.
  - 3. Our Father in heaven will care for and protect us.
- B. **We are sanctified— 3:1.**
- C. **We shall be like Him— 3:2; 1 Cor.15:49.**
  - 1. This process of being like Him begins while we are His children still on earth— cf.Rom.8:29.
  - 2. We will be glorified with Him— Rom.8:17; Col.3:4.
- D. **We have hope— 3:3; 1 Pet.1:3-5,9.**
  - 1. Those who are not of God's family do not have this hope— 1 Thess.4:13; cf.Eph.2:12.
  - 2. Only those who are truly children have a hope of receiving the inheritance— cf.Rom.8:16,17.

## IV. God's Children Will Purify Themselves— 3:3.

- A. **We desire to purify ourselves since He has made us His children— 2 Cor.6:18-7:1.**
  - 1. One of the characteristics of a child is they are always trying to be like their mother or father.
  - 2. As God's children we purify ourselves since "*he is pure*"— 1 Pet.1:13-16.
- B. **We should test ourselves regularly to see if we are clean— 2 Cor.13:5.**
- C. **We purify ourselves by obedience to the word & by the blood of Jesus— 1 Pet.1:22; 1 Jn.1:7.**

## V. The Distinguishing Features Of God's Children.

- A. **God's children doeth no sin. (3:6,9)**
  - 1. John does NOT mean it is impossible for the Christian to sin— 1 Jn.1:7-2:1.
  - 2. What is sin? 3:4— "*sin is the transgression of the law.*" (KJV)
  - 3. God's children desire to do no sin since there is no sin in our Father— 3:5.
  - 4. The children of God doeth no sin since they are "*obedient children*" (KJV-1 Pet.1:14).
- B. **The Children of God doeth righteousness. (3:7)**
  - 1. God's children are characterized by obedience to their Father's will— cf.1 Pet.1:14.
  - 2. The children of Satan do just the opposite— 3:10.
- C. **God's children have God's seed abiding in him. (3:9)**
  - 1. This refers to the likeness of God in us— cf.Gal.4:19,20.
  - 2. This likeness results from following the seed— cf.Lk.8:11; cf.Psalms 119:11.