

June 15, 2014 - Morning  
"Behold, Your Father's Love"  
1 John 3:1-3

J.I. Packer in the longest chapter in his most famous book, *Knowing God*, makes the following wonderful and profoundly true statements:

He says, "You sum up the whole New Testament teaching in a single phrase, if you speak of it as a revelation of the Fatherhood of the Holy Creator..."

He goes on to say, "If you want to judge how well a person understands Christianity, find out how much he makes of the thought of being God's child, and having God as his Father. If this is not the thought that prompts and controls his worship and prayers and his whole outlook on life, it means he does not understand Christianity very well at all."

For EVERYTHING that Christ taught, everything that makes the New Testament NEW, and better than the Old, everything that is distinctly CHRISTIAN as opposed to merely Jewish; is summed up in the knowledge of the Fatherhood of God. 'Father' is the Christian name for God." J.I. Packer

I. Something the Apostle John would have us count  
**WONDER-FULL** –

<sup>NKJ</sup> **1 John 3:1** Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of God! (1John 3:1 NKJ)

1. The word "Behold" is something I have preached about before!  
When we see it in Scripture we should take SPECIAL NOTICE –

2. What "manner of love"

**4217** ποταπός potapos {pot-ap-os'}

**Meaning:** 1) from what country, race or tribe 2) of what sort or quality (what manner of) 2a) of persons 2b) of things

**Usage:** AV - what manner of 4, what 1, what manner of man 1, what manner of person 1; 7

It is an expression of astonishment, of wonder meaning something like WHERE did THIS COME From???

God's love is expressed here as unworldly, foreign, alien; so amazing different and better and superior to anything else on earth, and human love, that it is mindboggling it is even here!

J.I. Packer calls the revelation to a believer that His Father is God, the "climax of the Bible."

This can be seen, when we take a broad view of Scripture and notice it presents God moving progressively closer and closer to us –

- In the wilderness He met with His people in the tabernacle,
- In Jerusalem He dwelt in the Temple,
- In Christ, He was and is Emmanuel, God with us
- After Christ dies, pays the penalty for our sin, resurrects and ascends to Heaven – He sends back the Holy Spirit and we ourselves become the Spirit's Temple –

<sup>16</sup> Do you not know that you are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you? (1Corinthians 3:16 NKJ)

- And what does this Holy Spirit dwelling in us do?

but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, "Abba, Father." <sup>16</sup> The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, (Romans 8:15-16 NKJ)

Two passages express where we might travel in our drawing nearer and nearer to God:

<sup>10</sup> The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom; A good understanding have all those who do His commandments. His praise endures forever. (Psalm 111:10 NKJ)

<sup>18</sup> There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves torment. But he who fears has not been made perfect in love.

<sup>19</sup> We love Him because He first loved us. (1John 4:18-19 NKJ)

II. Something that should sustain us when the world is against us -

Therefore the world does not know us, because it did not know Him. (1John 3:1 NKJ)

1. This is something Jesus taught –

<sup>18</sup> "If the world hates you, you know that it hated Me before *it hated* you.

<sup>19</sup> "If you were of the world, the world would love its own. Yet because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you. <sup>20</sup> "Remember the word that I said to you, 'A servant is not greater than his master.' If they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you. If they kept My word, they will keep yours also. <sup>21</sup> "But all these things they will do to you for My name's sake, because they do not know Him who sent Me. <sup>22</sup> "If I had not come and spoken to them, they would have no sin, but now they have no excuse for their sin. <sup>23</sup> "He who hates Me hates My Father also.

<sup>24</sup> "If I had not done among them the works which no one else did, they would have no sin; but now they have seen and also hated both Me and My Father. (John 15:18-24 NKJ)

2. *The world Hates God because they cannot see or understand His kingdom –*

<sup>3</sup> Jesus answered and said to him, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God." (John 3:3 NKJ)

3. *Any who are not born again, children of God, have a different Father –*

<sup>42</sup> Jesus said to them, "If God were your Father, you would love Me, for I proceeded forth and came from God; nor have I come of Myself, but He sent Me. <sup>43</sup> "Why do you not understand My speech? Because you are not able to listen to My word. <sup>44</sup> "You are of *your* father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own *resources*, for he is a liar and the father of it. (John 8:42-44 NKJ)

III. *Something even we do not FULLY know –*

<sup>2</sup> Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is. (1John 3:2 NKJ)

1. *What we are: the children of God*

2. *What we shall be(as far as detailed knowledge):*

(a.) *It has not yet been revealed*

(b.) *But we know, when HE (Jesus Christ) is revealed, we shall be LIKE HIM*

3. *Christ's glory was veiled by His humanity, and still is to the point that many did (or do not) know Him or believe in Him –*

<sup>NKJ</sup> Isaiah 53:1 Who has believed our report? And to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed? <sup>2</sup> For He shall grow up before Him as a

tender plant, And as a root out of dry ground. He has no form or comeliness; And when we see Him, *There is no beauty that we should desire Him.* <sup>3</sup> He is despised and rejected by men, A Man of sorrows and acquainted with grief. And we hid, as it were, *our* faces from Him; He was despised, and we did not esteem Him. (Isaiah 53:1-3 NKJ)

4. *Christ's followers are like Him in this world –*

<sup>12</sup> Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution. (2 Timothy 3:12 NKJ)

A. *This is not only because the world is against us but because God would mold us (train us) by providence into the image of His Son, this is the ultimate good –*

<sup>28</sup> And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to *His* purpose. <sup>29</sup> For whom He foreknew, He also predestined *to be conformed to the image of His Son*, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren. (Romans 8:28-29 NKJ)

B. *God chastens us as our Father -*

<sup>4</sup> You have not yet resisted to bloodshed, striving against sin.

<sup>5</sup> And you have forgotten the exhortation which speaks to you as to sons: "My son, do not despise the chastening of the LORD, Nor be discouraged when you are rebuked by Him; <sup>6</sup> For whom the LORD loves He chastens, And scourges every son whom He receives." <sup>7</sup> If you endure chastening, God deals with you as with sons; for what son is there whom a father does not chasten? (Hebrews 12:4-7 NKJ)

IV. *Something that will make us GO --- True knowledge of God's Fatherhood and His love, which would make us like Christ, leads us (MOTIVATES US) to cooperate with "Our Father" in this plan –*

<sup>3</sup> And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.

1. *Motivation for sanctification is family likeness, love of a Father and Brother (Christ) not fear of a Judge.*

2. *This is a hope we can trust will not be disappointed because God is the One Who ultimately brings it to fruition –*

<sup>6</sup> being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete *it* until the day of Jesus Christ; (Philippians 1:6 NKJ)

*Arnold A. Brevick*