

## **I JOHN CHAPTER THREE**

### **Outline by David B. Watson**

#### **THE CHILDREN (1-2)**

- A. Children of God called sons of God (1-2)
  - a. "That we should be called the sons of God"
  - b. "Beloved, now are we the sons of God"
- B. Children of God and The Creator: "Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us" (1)
- C. Children of God and the Cosmos: (1)
  - a. "therefore the world knoweth us not"
  - b. "because it knew him not"
- D. Children of God and the Christ: (2)
  - a. "It doth not yet appear what we shall be"
  - b. "We know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him"
  - c. "We shall see him as he is"

#### **THE CONDUCT OF THE CHILDREN (3-10)**

- A. Children of God are saints: (3)
  - a. "Every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself"
  - b. "Even as he is pure"
- B. Children of Satan are sinners: (4-5)
  - a. Committing sin: (4)
    - i. "Whosoever committeth ( $\leftrightarrow$ ) sin transgresseth ( $\leftrightarrow$ ) also the law"
    - ii. "For sin is the transgression of the law"
  - b. Christ and sin: (5)
    - i. "And ye know that he was manifested to take away our sins; and in him is no sin"
    - ii. "For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil"

#### **THE COMPARISON OF THE CHILDREN (6-10)**

- A. Children of God and sin: (6-7, 9) "Little children, let no man deceive you"
  - a. "Whosoever abideth ( $\leftrightarrow$ ) in him sinneth ( $\leftrightarrow$ ) not"
  - b. "Whosoever sinneth ( $\leftrightarrow$ ) hath not seen him, neither known him"
  - c. "He that doeth ( $\leftrightarrow$ ) righteousness is righteous, even as he is righteous"
  - d. "Whosoever is born of God doth not commit ( $\leftrightarrow$ ) sin"
    - i. "For his seed remaineth ( $\leftrightarrow$ ) in him"
    - ii. "He cannot sin ( $\leftrightarrow$ ) because he is born of God"
- C. Children of Satan and sin: (8, 10)
  - a. "He that committeth ( $\leftrightarrow$ ) sin is of the devil"
  - b. "The devil sinneth ( $\leftrightarrow$ ) from the beginning"
  - c. "Whosoever doeth ( $\leftrightarrow$ ) not righteousness is not of God"
  - d. "Neither he that loveth ( $\leftrightarrow$ ) not his brother"
- D. Children of God and children of Satan: (10)
  - a. "In this the children of God are manifest"

- b. In this “the children of the devil” are manifest

#### THE CHARITY OF THE CHILDREN (11-18)

- A. The Message: (11)
  - a. “For this is the message that ye heard from the beginning”
  - b. “That we should love one another”
- B. The Murderer: (12, 15) “Not as Cain”
  - a. “*Who* was of that wicked one”
  - b. Who “slew his brother”
    - i. “And wherefore slew he him?”
    - ii. “Because his own works were evil, and his brother's righteous”
  - c. “He that loveth not *his* brother abideth in death”
  - d. “Whosoever hateth his brother is a murderer”
  - e. “Ye know that no murderer hath eternal life abiding in him”
- C. The Marvel: (13)
  - a. “Marvel not, my brethren”
  - b. “If the world hate you”
- D. The Manifestation: (14, 16-18)
  - a. The Passing: “We know that we have passed from death unto life, because we love the brethren”
  - b. The Perceiving: “Hereby perceive we the love *of God*”
    - i. “Because he laid down his life for us”
    - ii. “We ought to lay down *our* lives for the brethren”
  - c. The Prescription: Ability + Opportunity = Responsibility
    - i. “But whoso hath this world's good”
    - ii. “And seeth his brother have need”
    - iii. “And shutteth up his bowels *of compassion* from him”
    - iv. “How dwelleth the love of God in him?”
  - d. The Precept: “My little children”
    - i. “Let us not love in word, neither in tongue”
    - ii. Let us love “in deed and in truth”

#### THE CONFIDENCE OF THE CHILDREN (19-21)

- A. Condemnation: “For if our heart condemn us, God is greater than our heart, and knoweth all things” (20)
- B. Confidence/Assurance: (19, 21)
  - a. Assurance: “And hereby we know that we are of the truth, and shall assure our hearts before him” (19)
  - b. “Beloved, if our heart condemn us not, *then* have we confidence toward God” (21)

#### THE COMMANDMENTS OF THE CHILDREN (22-24)

- A. Confidence: “And whatsoever we ask, we receive of him” (22)
- B. Commandments: (22-23)
  - a. “Because”
    - i. “We keep his commandments”

- ii. We “do those things that are pleasing in his sight”
  - b. “And this is his commandment”
    - i. “That we should believe on the name of his Son Jesus Christ”
    - ii. That we should “love one another, as he gave us commandment”
- C. Communion: (24)
  - a. “And he that keepeth his commandments dwelleth in him, and he in him”
  - b. “And hereby we know that he abideth in us, by the Spirit which he hath given us”