

Children With a Destiny

This past Sunday, February 1, I preached on the subject of the Father-Love of God from 1 John 3:1-2. My last point was our inheritance, that we are God's children. *"Dear friends, now we are children of God, what we will be as not yet been made known. But when He appears, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is and become like Him"* (1 John 3:2). By God's sovereign love in Jesus Christ, we have been adopted as His children. This is good news! But even greater news is that "the best is yet to come."

"When He appears, we shall be like Him, for we will see Him as He is and become like Him." Theologians call this the "Viseo Dei" or the "Face of God." We live now as His children, indwelt by His presence, in relationship with Him, and recipients of all of His promises. Yet, we still struggle in this world. But, that one day is coming! One day, we will know the best that is to come. Learning to live with our destiny emblazoned on our hearts gives us hope and the strength to be faithful to Him in the daily, minute-by-minute living of our days.

C. S. Lewis eloquently says it this way, *"We all want something in our passions that can hardly be put in words; to be united with the beauty we see. That's why the poets (and I would add the love songs) tell us such lively falsehoods. They talk as if the west wind could sweep into the human soul, but it cannot. They tell us of beauty born of murmuring sound which will turn into human face, but it will not. But if you take the imagery of Scriptures seriously, if we believe God will one day give us the Morning Star and cause us to put on the splendor of the Evening Star, then we may surmise that the ancient myths and modern poetry (I would add the contemporary love songs), so false as history, will be true as prophecy. At present, we are on the outside of the world, the wrong side of the door... But the leaves of the New Testament are rustling with the rumor that this will not always be so. Someday, God willing, we will get there and we will put on the glory of which the beauty of Nature is but a first sketch."*

C.S. Lewis is reminding the Christian that all the best in this world is but a dim glimpse of the glory to come when Jesus establishes His New Heaven and Earth. All the longings of the soul: the desire to be perfectly loved and to love perfectly; the longing to be significant; the spiritual hunger for lasting sensual happiness and satisfaction all point to Christ and will one day be filled to the fullest.

The Apostle Paul says it this way. *"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 will know fully, even as I am fully known. And now these three remain: there is faith, hope and love. But the greatest is love"* (1 Corinthians 13:12-13).

Why is love the greatest? Because when Jesus appears and culminates history, faith will no longer be needed. We will see Him as He is and will become like Him. Hope will be of no eternal value. The glory of His presence will be our reality. But, love is and will remain. For all eternity, we will be sensually fulfilled in the eternal love of

our God who so loved us that He sent His Son so that we may be His eternal children.
This is the everlasting, all-loving Father God who adopts us. This is Good News!
Great Peace in the Lord,

Eddie