**WE SHALL BE LIKE HIM**

Christians are different then the world (Romans 12:1-2). We are in the world, but not of the world (John 17:14-16). For that reason the world just doesn’t get us. They think us “*strange*” (I Peter 4:3-4), and in fact we call ourselves “*strangers and pilgrims on the earth*” (Hebrews 11:13). Like I said, the world does not know us, but there is a good reason for that. Read this following text and let’s think about it together:

​*1 Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of God! Therefore the world does not know us, because it did not know Him. 2 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. 3 And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.*(I John 3:1-3)

The world does not know us - - - because it did not know Him. Jesus walked on this planet for 33 years. Do you know what the world thought of this Immanuel, this “*God with us*” (Matthew 1:23)? When this “*Word became flesh and dwelt among us*” (John 1:14) the world hated Him (John 7:7), seeing in Him “*no beauty that we should desire Him… we hid our faces from Him… we did not esteem Him*” (Isaiah 53:2-3). In other words, to put it in profane words, to the world Jesus wasn’t worth spit on the griddle. He was ugly all the way to the bone. But that’s only how the world saw Him (vs. 1).

It’s verses 2-3 that gets my juices flowing. We might be strangers in this broken sin-sick world, but we are God’s children (vs. 1,2) and Christ’s brother (Hebrews 2:11). Our real home, our real family, is up there, not down here. Just as the world did not recognize “God in the flesh” when He walked among us, neither do they recognize us as to who we are and what we will yet be.

“*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*.” Can you wrap your mortal, finite mind around that statement? Tap on your head, and like the Winnie the Pooh, say to yourself, “Think, think, think, think.” John says we don’t know one thing (“*what we shall be*”), but then teases us by saying whatever it is, when He returns for us, we do know “*we shall be like Him*!” I can’t possibly paint a perfect portrait of what He, thus we, will look like, but we do have a few flash photos (“visions”) to give us some hints.

**Peter, James, John Vision**. Read the transfiguration accounts in Matthew 17:2, Mark 9:2, Luke 9:29, and 2 Peter 1:16. These apostles saw but a filtered glimpse of Christ in His true pre-birth glory as God when they saw His face altered to shine like the sun, with glistening clothes whiter and brighter than any man ever wore on earth. Peter’s personal account said “*we were eyewitnesses of His majesty*.”

**Paul’s Vision**. Read his three accounts in Acts 9, 22 and 26. He saw the risen Lord who had ascended to heaven in a new way than He had ever been on earth. He saw “*a great light shone around him from heaven… brighter than the sun*.” The personage of Christ was no longer a mere 100 watts that He had dimmed down when He came to earth, but was turned up to blinding brilliance that would put the sun in the shade.

**John’s Vision**. While speaking figuratively in Revelation John still gave us a taste of Christ’s majesty in heaven. He wrote, *“I saw … One like the Son of Man, clothed with a garment down to the feet and girded about the chest with a golden band. 14 His head and hair were white like wool, as white as snow, and His eyes like a flame of fire; 15 His feet were like fine brass, as if refined in a furnace, and His voice as the sound of many waters; 16 He had in His right hand seven stars, out of His mouth went a sharp two-edged sword, and His countenance was like the sun shining in its strength.”* (Rev. 1:12-16). This is one time we should use the over-used word “awesome!”

What does Jesus look like? Jesus told Philip, “*If you’ve seen Me, you’ve seen the Father*” (John 14:9). Speaking of the Father we are told Jesus is “*the brightness of His glory and the express image of His person”* (Hebrews 1:3). Are you getting the idea? Every tidbit of information we are getting from the Bible is telling us of the incredible glory that Jesus now enjoys. Words fail us when trying to picture Jesus.

Which leads us back to our main theme: “*and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed,* ***we shall be like Him****.”* Romans 8:18-19 says, *“18 For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us. 19 For the earnest expectation of the creation eagerly waits for the revealing of the sons of God.*” On this earth we are nobodies, just like Jesus was to the eyes of the world. But oh, just wait, what Jesus has become, we shall soon become! We “eagerly wait” for our coming out party. We yearn to leave this mortal, corruptible, weak, dishonorable, natural terrestrial body of dust and be clothed in our new immortal, incorruptible, powerful, honorable, glorious celestial spiritual body (I Cor. 15:40-53). We now bear the image of Adam, but soon we will bear the image of Jesus. We shall see Him even as He is. We shall be like Him!

**Application:**

Right now while we live in the shadows of this cursed earth we have hope of a better day to come. Paul put it so eloquently in Romans 8:17 that we are now “*heirs of God and joint-heirs with Christ*” and that one day, perhaps soon, we will be “*glorified with Him*.” I weep as I write this. Can it be that the glorification of Christ on that Judgment Day, when every knee bows and tongue confesses Him as God’s Son, that He will turn and call us to His throne to share in that glory?

I don’t know what Jesus looks like. Nor do you, or any man. But Moses, Elijah, Abraham, Lazarus and the entire “great cloud of witnesses” await our arrival so that when we finally come before Him, when we finally get to see Him, “***we shall be like Him***.” Doesn’t that just make you homesick? As much as I now miss seeing you, I miss seeing Him infinitely more. Let’s go home. If you miss heaven, you miss it all.

Until tomorrow… I miss you… I love you. Rick