

Study Guide-1 John: Lesson 52-Our Purifying Hope

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This study guide explores the theological foundations of Christian hope as presented in the First Epistle of John and related scriptures. It focuses on the nature of the appearing of Jesus Christ, the believer's role in purification, and the refutation of eschatological views that deny a future physical return of the Lord.

Part I: Short-Answer Quiz

Instructions: Answer the following questions in two to three sentences based on the provided text.

1. What is the specific memory verse identified for the month, and what is its primary command to believers?
2. According to the study, how does God accomplish the work of keeping and purifying His people?
3. What two specific things will happen to believers when Jesus Christ appears, as described in 1 John 3:2?
4. Why is the rapture of the church referred to as a "signless event" in the context of biblical prophecy?
5. What are the three "titles" given to the hope of the believer in Titus 2:13, 2 Thessalonians 2:16, and 1 Peter 1:3?
6. How do "Preterists" or "Hyper-Preterists" interpret the timing of the second coming of Jesus Christ and the resurrection?
7. What is the primary biblical problem with the belief that we are currently living in the new heaven and the new earth?
8. Based on Acts 1:9–11, in what specific manner will Jesus Christ return to the earth?
9. According to Mark 13:33 and the examples of modern authors, what is the danger of attempting to predict the exact day or hour of the Lord's return?
10. How should the expectation of the imminent return of Jesus Christ practically influence a believer's daily conduct?

Part II: Answer Key

1. The memory verse is 1 John 4:11: "Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another." It emphasizes that God's love for His people serves as the motivation for believers to demonstrate love toward one another.
2. God keeps His people through the energy of the Holy Spirit, but He does so in response to the believer's own will. This means that Christians have an active, participatory role in their own purification and faithfulness to the end.
3. When Jesus Christ appears, believers will see Him exactly as He is. Consequently, as a result of seeing Him in His glory, believers will be transformed to be like Him.
4. The rapture is considered a signless event because there are no specific prophecies that must be fulfilled to initiate the end times or the coming of Jesus Christ for His church. It is imminent and could happen at any time, often when it is least expected.
5. In these passages, the hope of the believer is respectively called the "blessed hope," "good hope," and "living hope." These varied descriptions highlight the importance and the multifaceted nature of the return of Jesus Christ.
6. Preterists believe that most or all end-time prophecies were fulfilled by 70 AD during the destruction of Jerusalem by the Romans. This includes the second coming, the resurrection of the dead, and the Great White Throne Judgment, which they view as past events.
7. The text argues that it is "infathomable" to believe this is the new earth because sin and evil have not been eradicated, and Satan is still active. Furthermore, if this were the permanent new earth, there would be no future physical resurrection or tangible reality beyond the grave.
8. Jesus Christ will return in the same manner in which He ascended: physically, bodily, and visibly in the clouds. He departed in a recognizable God-man form, and He will appear again in His glorified body.
9. Scripture clearly states that no man knows the day or the hour of the Lord's return, and attempting to predict it brings discredit to the name of Jesus Christ. Examples like Hal Lindsey and Harold Camping show that such predictions make Christians look foolish when the dates pass without fulfillment.
10. Living in the light of the Lord's return serves as a powerful motivation for believers to be blameless and to purify themselves just as He is pure. Much like a driver slows down when they see an authority figure, the anticipation of meeting Jesus Christ influences how a person conducts their daily life.

Part III: Essay Questions

Instructions: Reflect on the following questions and provide a detailed response for each, citing the principles discussed in the study.

1. Compare and contrast the biblical definition of "hope" as used in 1 John with the common modern usage of the word "hope" (e.g., a wish or uncertainty).
2. Analyze the argument against "spiritualizing" prophetic scripture. What happens to the core doctrines of the church if the return of Jesus Christ and the resurrection are treated as symbolic rather than literal events?
3. Discuss the relationship between the Holy Spirit's power and the human will in the process of sanctification and purification. Why is it necessary for the believer to have an "active part"?
4. Explain the significance of the "Olivet Discourse" (Matthew 24) in the context of modern eschatological debates. How does the interpretation of the phrase "this generation" change one's entire view of the end times?
5. Reflect on the practical implications of 1 John 3:3: "And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure." How does a focus on the future return of Jesus Christ change one's priorities in the present?

Part IV: Glossary of Key Terms

Term	Definition
Abide	To remain or stay in a state of connection with the Lord; a major theme in the writings of the Apostle John.
Ascension	The physical and bodily rising of Jesus Christ into heaven, as witnessed by His disciples in Acts 1.
Blessed Hope	A specific scriptural title for the second coming of Jesus Christ (Titus 2:13).
Glorified Body	The physical, incorruptible form Jesus Christ possessed after His resurrection and the form believers will receive at His coming.
Hyper-Preterism	The belief that all biblical prophecies, including the second coming and the resurrection, were fully realized by 70 AD.
Imminent	The theological concept that the return of Jesus Christ for His church could happen at any moment without prior signs.
Millennial Kingdom	The future reign of Jesus Christ with His people on earth following His return.

Olivet Discourse	The sermon given by Jesus Christ on the Mount of Olives (Matthew 24) regarding end-time events and the destruction of the temple.
Partial Preterism	A view held by some theologians (such as RC Sproul) that some, but not all, end-time prophecies were fulfilled in 70 AD.
Preterism	An eschatological viewpoint that interprets most or all prophecies of the Bible as events that have already happened in history.
Purification	The ongoing process of becoming holy and blameless, driven by the hope of Christ's return and the power of the Holy Spirit.
Second Coming	The future, physical return of Jesus Christ to the earth to reign and establish His kingdom.

Part V: Greek Terminology and Phonetic Guide

The following term was referenced during the study to provide a deeper understanding of the biblical text:

- **Fur rule**¹ [Phonetic: *fuh-ROOL*]: This term refers to the appearing, arrival, or manifestation of Jesus Christ. It is used to describe His incarnation at birth, His appearance after the resurrection, and His future return to reveal Himself to His people.

¹ *Footnote: In the source context, this phonetic term is used to represent the Greek concept of appearing (likely "phaneroo") or arrival ("parousia"), specifically in the context of being "made manifest."*