

Study Guide: 1 John Lesson 53: Our Purifying Hope

February 25, 2026

This study guide explores the theological depths of 1 John 2:28 through 3:1, focusing on the theme of "Purifying Hope." It examines the necessity of abiding in Jesus Christ, the manifestation of righteousness as evidence of the New Birth, and the incomprehensible, sovereign love of the Father that adopts believers as His own children.

Short Answer Quiz

1. According to the text, what is the specific "hope" that John delineates in this passage, and who is this hope limited to?
 2. Explain the meaning of the Greek term *Meno* and why John uses it to describe the relationship between a believer and the Gospel.
 3. What is the spiritual consequence for those who do not abide in Jesus Christ when He appears at His Second Coming?
 4. Describe the distinction between the two types of "knowing" represented by the Greek words *Oida* and *Ginosko* in the context of righteousness.
 5. How does the text define the "means" by which God secures and sanctifies a believer?
 6. Why is a believer's life described as a matter of "direction" rather than "perfection"?
 7. What does the Greek word *Potapos* reveal about the nature of God's love as described in 1 John 3:1?
 8. Contrast the "universal love" of God with the "saving love" He provides specifically for believers.
 9. How does the "driving force" in a Christian's life differ from a system of legalistic rules?
 10. Why is the world unable to recognize or understand the identity of believers as children of God?
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Answer Key

1. The hope is specifically defined as the Second Coming of Jesus Christ. This hope is limited to those who are "abiding" in Him, which refers to remaining faithful to the Gospel and persevering in their relationship with the Lord.
 2. The term *Meno* translates to "remain" or "stay." It serves as a call for Christians to be steadfast and faithful to the Gospel, ensuring they do not "go out" or defect from the faith as others have done.
 3. Those who do not abide in Him will lack confidence at His appearing and will instead be in a position of shame. Only those who maintain a fearless trust through abiding can look forward to the return of Jesus Christ without shrinking away.
 4. *Oida* refers to an absolute, intellectual truth—knowing that Jesus Christ is righteous as an objective fact. *Ginosko* refers to experiential knowledge, where a believer perceives through their own life and experience that practicing righteousness is evidence of being born of Him.
 5. God saves believers by faith, but He sanctifies them through the means of faith and obedience. Furthermore, He secures His children through the means of perseverance and endurance.
 6. Perfection is unattainable in this life, but the pattern of a believer's life should move in the right direction. While a Christian may not always fulfill the desire to be without sin, their life is characterized by a longing to honor Jesus Christ rather than a pattern of practicing sin.
 7. *Potapos* describes a love that is "foreign" or "alien," suggesting it is completely outside of human experience or understanding. It conveys that the Father's love is of a different origin—heavenly and inexplicable—rather than something elicited by human merit.
 8. Universal love is an indiscriminate compassion or "common grace" that God shows to all, such as the sun shining on the just and unjust. Saving love is a special, particular, and unbreakable love reserved for believers, described as an electing and protecting love that sustains them to the end.
 9. Instead of being motivated by someone "banging on them with rules," a Christian is driven by a wonder-filled love and praise for the Lord. This internal desire to please and honor Him makes sin increasingly repulsive as the believer grows closer to Jesus Christ.
 10. The world does not know believers because it did not know Jesus Christ. Because believers have been transformed into new creations by a supernatural, sovereign love, their true nature is hidden from a world that remains alienated from God.
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Essay Questions

1. **The Theology of Abiding:** Analyze the relationship between abiding in Jesus Christ and the assurance of salvation. How does the text use the examples from 1 John 2 and Hebrews 3 to define "perseverance" as a mark of a true believer?
 2. **Righteousness as Evidence:** Discuss the "unmasking of the phony balonies" mentioned in the text. How does the practice of righteousness serve as a diagnostic tool for one's spiritual condition, and why is "longing to honor Jesus Christ" central to this?
 3. **The Alien Nature of Agapé:** Examine the concept of *Agapé* as a "love of the will." How does the Greek term *Potapos* support the argument that God's love is initiator-driven rather than response-driven?
 4. **The Attributes of God:** The document suggests that God's attributes are not "isolated notes" but a "chord." Explain how God can be "lovingly just" and "lovingly vengeful" simultaneously, and how this affects the believer's view of His character.
 5. **The Believer's Future Standing:** Based on the discussion regarding the day of judgment and the "last tear," evaluate the biblical perspective provided on whether believers will remember their sins in glory.
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Glossary of Key Terms

- **Abide:** To remain, stay, or continue steadfastly in the faith and the Word of Jesus Christ.
- **Agapé:** A self-sacrificing, spontaneous love of the will that seeks the benefit of others regardless of their worthiness.
- **Common Grace:** The general, universal love of God that provides blessings and compassion to all of humanity, regardless of their spiritual standing.
- **Manifest:** To make clear or evident to the eye; the outward display of an inward spiritual reality.
- **New Birth (Regeneration):** The act of God by which a person is transformed into a new creation and receives the righteousness of Jesus Christ.
- **Overcomer:** A believer who sustains themselves in the Lord through faith, as described in 1 John 5:4.
- **Propitiation:** The payment or sacrifice that satisfies the wrath of God and secures forgiveness for sins.
- **Purifying Hope:** The expectant waiting for the Second Coming of Jesus Christ, which motivates a believer to live righteously in the present.
- **Sovereign Love:** An uninfluenced and unmerited love originating from the Father, by which He chooses and adopts His children.

- **Steadfast:** Firm and unwavering in purpose, resolution, or faith.

Greek Terminology and Phonetic Guide [^1]

Greek Word	Phonetic Pronunciation	Definition
Mino (<i>Meno</i>)	MEE-noh	To remain, stay, or abide; to continue in a state or relation.
Oida	OY-dah	To know absolutely or as an objective fact; to have certain knowledge.
Ginosko	ghih-NOH-skoh	To know experientially or by perception; a deeper, relational knowledge.
Potapos	poh-tah-POHS	Of what manner; foreign, alien, or from another world.
Hegapy (<i>Agapé</i>)	ah-GAH-pay	The love of the will; self-giving and sovereign love.

[^1]: These terms are used throughout the study guide to provide a deeper linguistic context for the biblical concepts of abiding, knowing, and the nature of God's love.