**1 John 3:1-7 (ESV)**

**“**See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are. The reason why the world does not know us is that it did not know him. **2** Beloved, we are God’s children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is. **3** And everyone who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure. **4** Everyone who makes a practice of sinning also practices lawlessness; sin is lawlessness. **5** You know that he appeared to take away sins, and in him there is no sin. **6** No one who abides in him keeps on sinning; no one who keeps on sinning has either seen him or known him. **7** Little children, let no one deceive you. Whoever practices righteousness is righteous, as he is righteous.”

**“Children of Hidden Glory”**

**Intro:** “Earth Day”

* Many have left Easter now behind and are celebrating Earth Day today!
* Already had enough of my own earth day this week (duck in basement)
* Established 1970 as a reaction to disastrous oil spill in Santa Barbara, CA
* Noble cause to care for the earth, but nothing will finally clean up the mess of sin and death polluting this old creation.

Matter a fact, the creator is aware of the dire mess humanity has made of the world.

“Day of resurrection”

* There is a greater celebration already won by the death and resurrection of Jesus.
* Established upon the new creation that has risen out of the cross (vs. 39)
* God does care for His fallen creation and especially saving humanity that He made in His image. (vs. 47)
* St. John the apostle does not want this “Day of resurrection” distorted for Christians later in time. (Last Apostle, Last Gospel, Last book of the Bible)

**The Savior Jesus has given us a hidden glory in Him.**

**This glory is not as “hidden” as some have imagined.**

* “See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are.”
  + God CALLS us His children, so we pray “Our Father.”
    - Same as the first creation; calling the light day, and the darkness night.
    - Bede, “The grace of our Creator is so great that he has allowed us both to know him and love him, and moreover, to love him as children love a wonderful father. It would be no small thing if we were able to love God in the way that a servant love his master or a worker his employer. But loving God as father is much greater still.” (PL 93:98) - FAMILY
  + This identity comes by baptism (God’s kind of love)
    - Galatians 3:26-27 “for in Christ Jesus you are all sons of God, through faith. For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ.” (Adoption)
    - We are set apart for St. John said, “The reason why the world does not know us is that it did not know him.”

**This glory is far from what we “see” in a spoiled and dying creation.**

* “Beloved, we are God’s children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is.”
  + There is nothing wrong with having to wait on Jesus.
    - Can be hard, but Scripture is what “opens” our minds to what hides behind the cross. - DESPAIR NEEDS GOD
    - The Psalmist sang of what God promises, “In your presence there is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore. (16:11)
  + What will appear will be the answer to our prayers!
    - Jesus will have the full victory over all that stands against the baptized.
    - “The Devil, the world, and our flesh will be completely gone. In this life we must be on our constant guard…Evidently, in heaven there will no longer be any restrictions of any kind. This is so hard to imagine. Truly, it has not yet been revealed what we shall be.” (Bul’s notes)

**This glory is not worth exchanging for any other glory because we serve Jesus.**

* “And everyone who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure.”
  + There is a direction in the Christian life
    - St. Paul, “For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers.” (Romans 8:29)
    - It happens by repentance and forgiveness before the Savior. – PICK ROCKS
  + The saint is to overcome the sinner because even the Law serves a glorious purpose for a time.
    - Everyone who makes a practice of sinning also practices lawlessness; sin is lawlessness. You know that he appeared to take away sins, and in him there is no sin. No one who abides in him keeps on sinning; no one who keeps on sinning has either seen him or known him.
    - “We teach furthermore, not only how the law can be kept, but also that God is pleased when we keep it-not because we live up to it but because we are in Christ…” (Tappert 126:140)

**The Savior Jesus has given us a hidden glory in Him.**