

THREE “BEHOLDING’S” ASSOCIATED WITH CHRIST

By Keith Greer

Today, we want to examine three "**beholding's**" of Christ found in the Scriptures.

Beholding the Dying One - Salvation— "The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!" (John 1:29) When John saw the Lord, he pointed out that He was the remedy for the world's sin problem. Christ's death on the cross was the ransom price paid for sin. His shed blood placed man in a position where he could, by obeying the gospel of Christ, attain the benefits associated with that blood. {Romans 5:8,9; Ephesians 1:7}

Beholding the Risen One - Transformation— "But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord." {2 Corinthians 3:18} Christ was transformed when he left earth and returned to heaven {Acts 1:9-11}. God commanded His children to "transform" their lives to take on the Lord's character and image. To accomplish this, we must conform our lives to God's will-just as Christ did when he lived and worked on earth.

Beholding the Coming One - Glorification— "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." {1 John 3:2} All of God's children have the same goal-to behold the face of our Lord in our glorified state. Following the resurrection from the dead, we will have new bodies suited for the new, spiritual realm in which we will spend eternity {1 Corinthians 15:35-45}. When the Lord descends from heaven, with his mighty angels, he will redeem the saved of all ages. Christians will be glorified and receive their reward from God.

God's people must travel the uneven pathways of life and endure many things along the way. Satan will try to discourage us, the world will try to entice us to change our course, and one may even lose friends along the way in living for Christ. Yet, we must remember that only if we remain faithful and obedient till we leave this life or the Lord returns- whichever comes first, will our meeting with our Lord be a pleasant experience. May we behold Him with happy hearts! ***