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Selah: Stop, Look, Listen – October 25, 2022

The Lord be with you.

She loves me, she loves me not. Did you ever play that game? They say it's actually quite an old game where you take a flower and you begin to pick off the pedals one by one, and with each pedal you pick off, you say, he loves me, he loves me not. Or, she loves me, she loves me not. And you keep on picking off the pedals until you come to that last pedal and that's supposed to tell you... He loves me or he loves me not. Do you ever play that game with God? I know a lot of people who do, I mean they do something wrong and they're just sure that God loves me not... Or something bad happens to them, and they think, Well, God must not love me. Well, lets see if today we can't get all this settled once and for all, and put our minds at rest about God's love for you and me. I'm looking at the little book of First John in Chapter 3, Verses 1 and 2, "See what love the Father has given us that we should be called children of God. And that is what we are. The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. Beloved, we are God's children now. What we will be has not yet been revealed. What we do know is this when He is revealed, we will be like Him for we will see Him as He is."

Now, today's text starts out with the word see, or take notice, consider, deliberate, think about what love the Father has given us. The Greek word that is translated What, in what love, is the Greek word, potapos. And I literally ask, what country... What possible country does a love like this come from... I mean, this is a love that doesn't come from anywhere around us, it is a love that is inconceivable, unimaginable, the love the Father has given us, and note that it's not just that the Father loves us, which he does, but it is a love that He has given us. A love that He has given us, that we should be called children of God. Now, in the biblical language, to be called something means to be made something, so God doesn't just call us His children, our name as His children, God makes us to be His children. The Gospel of John Chapter 1:12 puts it like this, "that all who received, Jesus, who believed in His name, He gave power to become children of God." So the God makes us to share in His nature so that we possess eternal life, and God is in the process of making us more and more like him. So that what Jesus is by His eternal nature, God is making us by His grace.

Now, Verse Two assures us. Beloved, we are God's children now. I like that. Now. We are God's children now. It's not something that we're waiting to happen... We are God's children now. Now, in the Greek text, the word now is put in the emphatic position in the sentence. Now, we are God's children. So this is something that you can trust. Something you can know that you can



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feel that. Now, you are God's children. Okay, that's now. But what about our future as a God's children?

Well, again, Verse 2 tells us, beloved, we are God's children now. What we will be has not yet been revealed. Imagine for a moment, a baby in the mother's womb, the baby cannot know, the baby cannot imagine what life is like beyond the womb, and then a sense that you and me that we cannot begin to conceive what we will be. And that a God who creates billions and billions of galaxies, well he's creating, something for you and me in the future, that our present faculties cannot conceive. What we will be has not yet been revealed. What we do know is this John says, when Christ is revealed, we will be like Him, for we will see Him as He is. As a face of the moon turned toward the sun reflects the light of the sun. So you and I will reflect the glory of Christ, when one day we see Him face-to-face, we will enter the Kingdom that is prepared for us, we will sit down on thrones and be crowned with life and glory forever. Let's go back to the beginning of this passage. See, what love the Father has given us. Don't just see it. Considerate, take it in. This is something to focus our lives on, the Father's love for us, make the Father's love for you, the first thing you think about it in the morning, the last thing you think about at night and through the day... See, consider, contemplate what love the Father has given you and me. You see, with God, there is no, he loves me, he loves me not. He loves us. That settles it. Live in God's love, Revel in the father's never- ending love for you.

I am Tim Smith, a fellow traveler. Thanks for listening until next time.