

Everyone who has this hope in Him makes himself pure as He is pure

Homily, 3rd January, 2017

1Gv 2,29-3,6

father G. Paparone o.p.

I want to focus just on this statement, which is then the foundation of the existential dynamics of the believer who understood the deep meaning of his faith: *Everyone who has this hope in Him makes himself pure as He is pure.*

I want to focus only on this point because I think it is necessary to assimilate, enjoy, and internalize the most beautiful and essential truths of our faith, without collecting too many “food”.

Then let us concentrate now on this suggestion of Saint John, who in the previous verse reminded Christians that **we are children of God and we are destined to go into a deep relationship with the Lord, even unimaginable.**

Now we are children of God, but what we shall be has not been revealed yet: even this statement is very important to meditate; we are children of God, and this is already an enormous thing, but St. John says *but what we shall be has not been revealed yet!*

In other words we do not even imagine what we still have to achieve, what we might be able to reach...

So, the one who understands this, who fully understands the meaning of this truth and who places its own hope in it, *purifies himself.*

Therefore the foundation of Christian asceticism, of the commitment in doing good, in denying the evil, in turning away from the sins and all the passions, is not the result of a cold and moralistic determination, a pure or simple rationalist duty, **but the result of a deep understanding of the mysterious gift that God wants to make to each of us: being children of God, entering into communion with Him.**

Only those who truly understand and want to set their hope on this goal, have the courage to face the difficult and painful challenge of the removal of the evil from their existence.

Therefore let us ask the Lord for the great and extraordinary gift to be able to understand better and better at what milestone we are oriented, what is our destination.

Saint John says: “*we will be like Him*”; then, staring at and anchoring our hearts in this fate, we ask God to give us all the necessary help that we need to purify our hearts and realize this communion with our Saviour.

Praised be Jesus Christ.