



# *Loving the Unseen Christ*

*‘Whom having not seen, ye love, in whom, though now ye see him not, yet believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory’  
-1 Peter 1:8.*

## **I. Introduction**

**A. To love Christ without ever having seen Him is rather incredible, don't you think?**

**B. Yet, from another vantage point, it is as if we really do see Him all the time as we read about Him in the NT!**

**1. We “see” Him as a baby wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger-Luke 2:7.**

**2. We “see” Him astonishing the doctors in the temple at 12 years of age-Luke 2:40-47.**

**3. We “see” Him being baptized by John the Baptist and the Spirit of God descending from heaven and abiding on Him-Matthew 3:13-17; Mark 1:9-11; Luke 3:21 & 22; John 1:31-34.**

**4. When we read the crucifixion accounts in Matthew 27; Mark 15; Luke 23, & John 19, we “see” the Lord suspended between earth and heaven on a cross where He sacrificed Himself as “The Lamb of God,” and shed His blood for the remission of sins!**

**And this is the way God intended for it to be!**

**It is not necessary for a person to literally see the Lord to believe on him!**

*“Jesus saith unto him, Thomas, because thou hast seen me, thou hast believed: blessed are they that have not seen, and yet believed.*

*And many other signs truly did Jesus in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book.*

*But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God: and that believing ye might have life through his name”-John 20:29-31.*

**IT IS ABUNDANTLY CLEAR THAT ONE DOESN'T HAVE TO LITERALLY SEE THE LORD TO BELIEVE IN HIM, OR TO LOVE HIM!!**

**II. A listing of major points in the context of I Peter 1:8 that would cause Christians to have deep love for the Lord.**

**A. Christians have been sprinkled with Christ's blood.**

*“Elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through sanctification of the Spirit, unto obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ.*

*Grace unto you, and peace, be multiplied”-I Peter 1:2.*

**1. Notice the order: obedience first, then sprinkling by the blood of Christ!**

**2. This passage, along with others will show that the “cleansing agent” in baptism is Christ's blood, which He, as our Great High Priest, sprinkles upon the one who is baptized!**

**3. “And having an high priest over the house of God;**

***Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water”***  
**-Hebrews 10:21 & 22.**

**4. “Unto obedience” indicates the human, and “sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ,” the divine side of salvation. The prepositions of verse 1 and 2 are significant and revealing: Election is “according to” (kata) the purpose and plan of God; it is “in’ (en) the sphere of the Spirit’s influence; and it is “unto” (eis), i. e., designed to produce obedience. The work of the entire godhead in the salvation of man is evidenced in this remarkable passage. From it we learn that the Father elects, the Spirit sanctifies, and the Son, by his blood, redeems”-Guy N. Woods, A Commentary on the New Testament Epistles, Volume vii, pg. 23.**

**5. Question: Is the fact that the blood of Jesus has cleansed the Christian enough reason for Christians to love the Lord even though they've never literally seen Him?**

**B. The Christian has been begotten again into a living hope by Christ's resurrection.**

*“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto (eis, into) a living hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead”-I Peter 1:3.*

**1. This hope is a “living hope” because Christ “has been, and remains resurrected at God's right hand”-see I Corinthians 15:4 & 20.**

**2. The verbs for “raised” in both passages are perfect tense verbs. The expanded translation would be, “Christ has been, and continues to be raised from the dead!”**

**3. Christ is now alive forevermore-see Revelation 1:18; Hebrews 7:25.**

**4. The ever-living Christ is the guarantee that the hope of the Christian will never die!**

**The “living hope” belonging to Christians is certainly an excellent reason to love Christ though we’ve never seen Him!**

**C. Here are characteristics of the inheritance of the Christian brought through “the living hope.”**

**1. Incorruptible (aphtharton), imperishable, undying, enduring, and eternal.**

**All earthly things inevitably yield to dissolution and decay. The inheritance waiting for Christians is eternal, and will never perish, or end!**

**2. undefiled (amianton), unstained and unsoiled by sin! The earthly inheritance of the OT people of God was defiled by sin-see Leviticus 18:27 & 28.**

**3. Does not fade away (amaranton), unfading and unwithering. Heaven will never become less desirable, or less attractive.**

**4. Reserved in heaven (tetermenen), God is the keeper of this “reserved seat in heaven!”**

**5. Kept (phroumenous). This word was used in NT days to refer to a military guard used to guarantee safety and protection.**

**No person, or thing can stand against God’s power! And since the present tense verb is used, the thought is that Christians are continually guarded as long as they are walking by faith in God!**

***“If God be for us, who can be against us?”-Romans 8:31.***

*“Who shall lay anything to the charge of God’s elect? It is God that justifieth”-Romans 8:33.*

**The great, great, eternal inheritance laid up for Christians is another wonderful reason to love the Lord though we’ve never seen Him!**

**D. If Christians walk through the trials of this world, they will be praised, honored, glorified, and receive their eternal salvation!**

*“Wherein ye greatly rejoice, though now for a season, if need be, ye are in heaviness through manifold temptations:*

*That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire,*

*might be found unto praise, honor, and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ:*

*Whom having not seen, ye love; in whom, though now ye see him not, yet believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory:*

*Receiving the end of your faith, even the salvation of your souls”-I Peter 1:6-9.*

**How wonderful will it be to hear the Lord say,  
“Well done thou good and faithful servant?”**

**How honored will you feel to be ushered into  
heaven for eternity?**

**How wonderful will it feel to be glorified in heaven  
forever and ever?**

**Are all these things sufficient reasons for Christians to love the Lord though they have not seen Him?**

**THOUGHT QUESTION: HOW MUCH MORE WILL CHRISTIANS LOVE THE LORD WHEN THEY SEE HIM FACE TO FACE!**

**I'll tell you what I think about that day! I think we will all have joys inexpressible on that day!!**

### **III. Close**

**The lesson this morning has been about loving the Lord though we have not literally seen Him.**

**Some reasons to do that from the context are:**

**A. Christians are cleansed by the precious blood of Christ-v. 2.**

**B. Christians are begotten again into a living hope because of Christ's resurrection-v. 3.**

**C. This living hope leads to an eternal inheritance in heaven-vs. 4 & 5.**

**D. Christians who walk through the trials on this earth through faith in God will be praised, honored, and glorified eternally-vs. 6-9.**

**E. An old Chinese proverb says, "A journey of a thousand miles starts with the first step!"**

**F. I don't know how far it is to heaven, but the first step towards heaven is to be baptized into Christ for the remission of sins and to become a son of God!**

*“Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit”-Acts 2:38.*

*“For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus,  
For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ”-Galatians 3:26 & 27.*

**WILL YOU TAKE THE FIRST STEP TOWARDS  
HEAVEN THIS MORNING BY BEING  
BAPTIZED INTO CHRIST FOR THE  
REMISSION OF YOUR SINS?**