***JON’S SERMON OUTLINE….***

THE ASSURANCE OF THE NEW BIRTH

*See what great love the Father has lavished on 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.****2****Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when Christ appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is.****3****All who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure.* ***4****Everyone who sins breaks the law; in fact, sin is lawlessness.****5****But you know that he appeared so that he might take away our sins. And in him is no sin.****6****No one who lives in him keeps on sinning. No one who continues to sin has either seen him or known him.* ***7****Dear children, do not let anyone lead you astray. The one who does what is right is righteous, just as he is righteous.****8****The one who does what is sinful is of the devil, because the devil has been sinning from the beginning. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the devil’s work.****9****No one who is born of God will continue to sin, because God’s seed remains in them; they cannot go on sinning, because they have been born of God.*

1 John 3:1-9

Introduction: Today’s sermon is the third in this series entitled “Blessed Assurance”, from the book of 1 John. In the first 2 sermons, we looked at The Assurance of Forgiveness (1 John 1) and The Assurance of Relationship (1 John 2). Our topic this morning will be The Assurance Of The New Birth (1 John 3). The Christian life is a life of KNOWING and the word “know” is a key word in 1 John. The way we KNOW we have the new birth from God is laid out in 1 John 3 as two tests.

1. THE MORAL TEST: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (3:1-10):

 a. Flawless perfection is obviously impossible (3:9).

 b. Father/child relationship makes us different (3:1-3).

 c. Facing sin is necessary (3:4).

 d. Finding our place in Christ (3:5-8).

2. THE SOCIAL TEST: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (3:11-24):

 a. The Barriers To Love (3:11-17):

 1) Jealousy (11-12).

 2) Hatred (13-15).

 3) Insensitivity (16-17).

 b. The Blessings Of Love (3:18-22):

 1) Assurance (18-20).

 2) Answered prayer (21-22).

CONCLUSION: Are you a child of God?

Answers: 1. Obedience 2. Love