I Peter 1:8.

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

Three things:

[I.] Loving Christ.

[II.] Believing in Him.

[III.] Rejoicing in Him.

I. Love.

This appears by having high thoughts of him: his excellency; rejoice that he is glorious; happy [he] rules the world.

Desire to please him, honor him.

That others may please and honor him.

Love to think of him; take delight; desires after him; choosing him.

Reason. Why love Christ.

1. What he is.

2. What he does.

APPLICATION.

Whether you have a true love to Christ: keep his commandments; willing to forsake others; follow him constantly.

Exhortation. To love Christ.² How excellent he is.

God himself loves [Christ].

Angels, saints in heaven [love Christ]. Nothing that is good but that it is in him.

How much he has done to get the love of men.
He comes and seeks your love.
He offers his love.
How great the sin of not loving him.

[DOCTRINE RESUMMED]

II. Believing.
That there is such a person that he is such as the Scripture tells, that he does such things; believing what the Scripture says about him. Believing what he said to be is God’s great prophet.
Trinity.
Believe what he promised.
Believing that he is able to save.
That he has power enough.
That his blood is precious enough.
Has mercy enough.
Our being willing with our whole hearts to have him to our Savior.
Must be such a Savior as we like.
That happiness that he has purchased; [the] way of salvation. Like all that the Scripture tells us about Christ, and his salvation.
Trusting in him to save us.
Giving ourselves to him.

EXHORTATION.
Seek this. Without that [you] can’t be saved, etc. “He that believeth shall be saved he that believeth not shall be damned [Mark 16:16].
No great things are required of you.
Can’t be saved by our righteousness. Have nothing to give. God don’t want anything.

If you don’t believe, it will be worse. Christ offers himself. Set open the door; [He] stands at the door and knocks. [Rev. 3:20]. How can you expect to be saved, if you don’t believe?

III. Rejoicing in Christ.
Joy in Christ comes from loving him, and believing in him.
Joy in seeing his glory, his love.
Joy in serving and obeying Christ.
Joy in hope.

APPLICATION.
Seek this joy.
Seek that you may truly believe [and] love, that you may have this joy in your heart.

How much better [is] this joy than other joy.
Pleasures of the world are like the pleasures of beast.
’Tis like the joy of angels and souls in heaven. Like the joy of God. ’Tis [a] sweeter kind.

[Reason.] What reason others have to be sorrowful. What reason they that love [Christ] have to rejoice always.

What sorrow will come upon you in another world [if you do not seek]. What joys you shall have hereafter [if you do].

1 MS = “st. Ind. Octob 53.”
2 Both leaves of this sermon are made from fragments of a discarded (apparently 17th-century) ruled commonplace book, the entries of which JE wrote around.
3 MS =” hyis.”