



CAPITOL COMMISSION™

1 JOHN 2:28 – THE CERTAIN HOPE OF JESUS CHRIST’S RETURN!

COLORADO

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The result of abiding in Christ is a continuing reality of fellowship, a shared life with God and the supreme blessing of eternal life promised by Christ Himself, a promise made to us personally...life forever with Him. A life with no end. Let Christ be at home and operative in your life. Let His message have its course in your life. Abide in Him. Keep close and near to Christ, every day, every hour and every moment.

We live in a fallen world that is perishing. It is filled with those who oppose Christ as the Son of God. The world is full of deceivers and they are in the church. May we be watchful and abide in Him.

I. THE CERTAIN HOPE OF CHRIST’S RETURN! 1 JOHN 2:28

(28) *“And now, little children, abide in Him, so that when He appears, we may have confidence and not shrink away from Him in shame at His coming.” 1 John 2:28*

The return of the resurrected and glorified Christ is the hope of the church.

A. “AND NOW...” - 1 JOHN 2:28A

John makes a concluding appeal. He has repeated key points worth remembering and so he will do here once again. He pleads for believers to abide in Jesus Christ and this time will do so that we might be confident to appear before Him when He comes.

B. “LITTLE CHILDREN, ABIDE IN HIM...” - 1 JOHN 2:28B

Once again, John petitions believers to abide in Christ. This appeal is for continuing, intimate fellowship with Christ as a standing duty. It is to enjoy and know Christ more each day. It is to keep near and close to Christ. Take personal and active participation in letting Christ be at home in you and at work in your life. Take personal responsibility to cooperate with His work in you.

So persevere daily, love and obey God’s Word, submit to the Holy Spirit’s work in your heart and remain committed to the truth you have heard from the beginning. Persevere and abide. (John 15:4-16) We abide in Christ and we continue in Christ when we are fixed upon the truth, the encouragements, the promises, the warnings and commands of His Word.

How diligently and faithfully do you read God’s Word and seek to be shaped by its truth? To arrive at that day when Christ returns and you are found abiding in Him would indicate the measure of the love you have for Christ. Nothing prepares the believer to meet with Christ more than abiding in Him. If we cut ourselves loose from His Word, we will most

certainly drift from Christ.¹ This is why Paul wrote about persevering and fighting the good fight of faith in 1 Timothy 6:12.

C. “SO THAT WHEN HE APPEARS...” - 1 JOHN 2:28C

John wants us to abide in Christ “so that” when Christ returns we will not be ashamed at His coming for us. Mark 13:32-33 informs us that we do not know when Jesus will return, but He is certain to return. The return of the resurrected and glorified Christ is the hope of the church. Constant abiding in Christ will assure our appearing before Christ with confidence.²

“appears” Greek “**parousia**” used to express the visit of a King or an Emperor, literally means presence, personal presence of one now unseen, the visible presence of one now unseen, appearing, coming.

History is not an endless repeating cycle. We are all headed for God’s ordained end and that end will be signaled by Christ’s appearing. Since this is so, our great need is to be prepared for that day. Because Jesus Christ is returning, this gives every believer strong incentive for godly living now.

Peter called the return of our Lord “*a living hope*”. (1 Peter 1:3) In Titus 2:13, Paul called His coming our blessed hope. Jesus Christ will return again. Here are a few verses that speak to His Second Coming: Matthew 24:3, 27, 37, 39; 1 Corinthians 15:23, 1 Thessalonians 2:19, 3:13, 4:15, 5:25; 2 Thessalonians 2:1; James 5:7-8; 2 Peter 3:4; 1 John 2:28. This is to name a few. The King of Kings will appear personally to all. We all will be in the visible presence of our Lord when He comes whether a Christian or not.

Paul wrote about this day in Philippians 2:10-12, “*that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those who are in heaven and on the earth and under the earth, and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord to the glory of God the Father.*”

So John is saying that in view of that day, how important is a life of obedience to Christ now? Keep near and close to Christ!

D. “WE MAY HAVE CONFIDENCE...” - 1 JOHN 2:28D

Note that John uses the pronoun “*we*” here. He cannot separate himself from his readers as he speaks of when the end comes into view. Only if we abide in Christ will we have confidence before Him on that last day.

BIBLE STUDIES

LEGISLATORS, GOVERNOR & SPOUSES: TUESDAY AT 7:15AM, CAPITOL BASEMENT, ROOM 0109

STAFF, LOBBYISTS, JOURNALISTS & SERGEANTS: TUESDAYS AT NOON, [SSB 1525 SHERMAN, RM #603- ACROSS COLFAX FROM CAPITOL](#)

Colorado

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“**confidence**” Greek “**parresia**” means boldness, outspokenness, freedom of speech, believers boldness in approaching God (Hebrews 4:16, 10:19. Indicates an assurance derived from holy living and abiding in Christ. (Colossians 1:22).³

This word confidence is used to describe a Christian’s boldness of approach both to men and women as a witness and also to God. Here it refers to the believer’s confidence with which Christians may draw near to God in prayer now and on the Judgement Day. Only if we abide in Him, will we have confidence before Him on that last day.

John uses this word “*confidence*” as an incentive for righteous living. Righteousness comes by abiding in Christ and submitting to His work in our life to transform us from the inside out. What would happen if believers would actually understand that Jesus Christ is returning and we must give an account to Him? And we must too understand that Christ could come any day and there are those who need the gospel... the time is short.⁴

E. “AND NOT SHRINK AWAY FROM HIM IN SHAME...” - 1 JOHN 2:28E

In contrast to those who can be confident at our Lord’s return because they have an assurance that comes from abiding in Christ, are those who have vacillated in their devotion and service to Christ. Maybe they have given way to temptation and sin. Rather than abiding in Christ they have slacked. John has warned in his Epistle not to have any fellowship with the unfruitful works of the darkness.

The expression John uses here in this verse is very strong. You might remember when Adam and Eve were living in the Garden of Eden and they had given way to the first sin. As God came looking for them, they were hiding, shrinking with

shame at His coming because they knew they had sinned. (Genesis 3:1-13) That’s what John is referring to. There will be those who will be ashamed before Him. (Matthew 22:12, Revelation 6:15-17)

If Christ were to appear at this very moment, how would we feel? What would be our first impulse? Would we run to meet Him or shrink from Him in shame? Those who love Christ would not wish to be found by Him at His coming in any mood of mind, in any pleasure or activity that would cause even a momentary shrinking from Him in shame. May we be able to greet Him and welcome Him.⁵

F. “AT HIS COMING.” - 1 JOHN 2:28F

And Who is He that comes? It is our Savior, our Lord. He has gone to prepare a place for us among the many mansions of His Father’s house. (John 14:1-6) And why is He coming back? To take us to Himself that where He is we may be also! Could we possibly tolerate the idea of being ashamed at His coming when He comes on such an incredible errand? May we abide in Him always so when He appears we may have confidence! May we always be asking... if Christ were to come into my house, my room, and show Himself and speak face to face, would I have confidence? Could I meet His look of love without embarrassment? *ONLY* if He would find me abiding in Him. Only if He found me keeping Him near and close in my heart.⁶

May we be found abiding in Him... every day, every hour, every instant. He is about to appear, to appear suddenly, to come quickly. And may we be able, when He comes, to spring forward with keen eye and outstretched arms to welcome in all confidence, Him, Whom we love!⁷

Jesus said in Revelation 22:20-21, “*Yes I am coming quickly.*” May our response be as with John, “*Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.*”

¹ Hamilton, Ian, *Let’s Study the Letters of John*. The Banner of Truth Trust: Edinburgh, UK, 2008. Pg.31-32.

² Hiebert, D. Edmond, *The Epistles of John: An Expository Commentary*. Bob Jones University Press: Greenville, SC, 1991. Pg. 126.

³ MacArthur, John, *MacArthur Commentary Series on 1-3 John*. Moody Press: Chicago, IL, 2007. Pg. 113.

⁴ MacArthur, John, *MacArthur Commentary Series on 1-3 John*. Moody Press: Chicago, IL, 2007. Pg. 113.

⁵ Candlish, Robert S., *A Commentary on 1 John*. (1st Published 1866), Banner of Truth, London. 1973. Pg. 249.

⁶ Candlish, Robert S., *A Commentary on 1 John*. (1st Published 1866), Banner of Truth, London. 1973. Pg. 249-250.

⁷ Candlish, Robert S., *A Commentary on 1 John*. (1st Published 1866), Banner of Truth, London. 1973. Pg. 250.