



CAPITOL COMMISSION™

**1 JOHN 2:12-28 – REVIEW... THE CERTAIN HOPE OF CHRIST'S RETURN!
COLORADO JANUARY 14, 2020**

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I. LET'S REVIEW- 1 JOHN 2:12-29

John, the disciple and Apostle of Jesus Christ writes to Christians who are under his care. He is almost 100 years old as he writes with great love for those who are enduring persecution for their faith in Christ. Many came to faith under his teaching, and many have grown up under his pastoring. Therefore John writes to encourage them about their salvation and security in Christ that is certain. Yet he also warns them that being a Christian does not make one immune to the world's allurements.

A. ASSURED STANDING/SOLEMN WARNING!

1 JOHN 2:12-15

There is an assured standing into which every believer has come; forgiveness of sins, the privilege of knowing Christ and growing, and the victorious strength in Christ to defeat the assaults of Satan. With those encouraging words in 1 John 2:12-14, John then turns to this solemn warning for every Christian. "Do not love the world." John makes it clear that there is no neutrality. Either you love the world or you love God. What Christians are to avoid is sharing in the sinful, ambitions, desires and activities of this fallen world. John's warning is very solemn, "If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him." (1John 2:15) A true believer in Jesus Christ comes to perceive that the shallow and sinful attractions of the world for what they are "...passing away" (1 John 2:17)¹ You cannot love God and the world at the same time. (James 4:4)

B. ALL THAT GLITTERS IS NOT GOLD! 1 JOHN 2:16

The world is the human society and way of life governed by Satan with its false values, false claims, and false gods. It is the organized evil system that hates and openly defies God. It is the world where the desires of the flesh, desires of the eyes and the pride of life dominate life. The world is at war against the kingdom of God. Scripture tells us that the whole world lies in wickedness in and under the power of the evil one. (John 14:19) It is this world we are not to love, court its favors, adopt its maxims, nor covet its prizes. The Christ-less world has always opposed the will of God and it would be impossible for the heart to be set upon the world and at the same time be filled with love for the Father.² So John proceeds to describe the things of the world that reveal whether the love of God is in us or not. Satan will never weary himself of tempting us to believe life can be found outside of God's will and ways. Satan wants us to believe all that glitters is gold, but it's not. John writes these words to those who are Christians that we may heed their warning.

C. PASSING AWAY-ABIDING FOREVER! 1 JOHN 2:17

In this passage, John contrasts and confronts us with two ways to live. First there is the one who attaches himself to the world's aims and ways and is giving himself to the world which has no future. All those things are passing away. None have any permanency and only eventual disappointment. But then, there is the one who has taken God as the center of their life. This one has given his or her life to the things that last and abide forever. This one is certain of lasting joy for they have given their life to that which is certain through all eternity. Which way have you attached yourself to?³

D. A CRISIS FACING EVERY BELIEVER! 1 JOHN 2:18-19

You may remember that false teachers were troubling believers in the church. These false teachers believed that God was indifferent to sin, (1 John 1:5-10) and they behaved with reckless disregard for His commandments. (1 John 2:3-6) John will again warn about these antichrists, those who are against Jesus Christ and their heretical teaching as he writes out of a deep concern for the welfare of the church.⁴ There is a crisis that faces every believer, with false teachers who deny that Jesus is the Son of God Who came in the flesh to save our souls. If you deny that, you can't be saved. Though Satan is a defeated foe, he still roars. We must beware and guard against the lies and false teaching from those who oppose Jesus.

E. RESOURCES FOR EVERY BELIEVER! 1 JOHN 2:20-21

Christians are taught by the Holy Spirit and know the truth because of Him. They can recognize error for what it is and thus not be deceived. Truth and falsehood cannot mingle, and since believers know the truth, they will not accept the lies taught by the false teachers. Something cannot be true and false at the same time, "because no lie is of the truth." (1John 2:21) John wrote as an eyewitness to the truths about Jesus as the Son of God Who came in the flesh, died on the cross bearing the penalty of sin and satisfying the wrath of God, rose from the dead victorious over sin and death, ascended into heaven where He sits at the right hand of God the Father. He writes to believers with affirmation, yet you hear the rumble of thunder in the background as he writes about deceivers.

F. JESUS IS THE CHRIST! 1 JOHN 2:22-25

John sounds the warning bell about these "antichrists" whom he describes as "liars". Here the liars are identified. They are the ones who deny that "Jesus is the Christ." "Christ" is the Greek

BIBLE STUDIES

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word for Anointed One and “*Messiah*” is the Hebrew equivalent. These antichrists, claiming to be Christians denied that Jesus was God’s Messiah and Son. They denied Jesus’ Divine equality with God. This is a denial no true believer can make. In 1 John 4:2-3 we find that these false teachers refused to believe that “*Jesus had come in the flesh.*” This denied the fundamental truth of Christ’s Incarnation. To them it was inconceivable that God would join Himself to flesh, frail flesh. Today, our churches are filled with men and women who refuse to believe the clear teaching of God’s Word in regards to the Person of Jesus Christ. If God’s Son had not come in the flesh, we could not be saved. Jesus Christ came as one of us and as our representative, He would provide for us the righteousness we lacked and the atonement for sin that we could never make. The gospel is the good news of God’s sovereign intervention in His Son, Jesus Christ.⁵ The result of letting that message of the gospel be at home and operative in our lives carries with it the ultimate and supreme blessing of “*eternal life*”. (John 17:3) Eternal life is knowing God and Jesus Christ personally and savingly,

G. ABIDE IN CHRIST! 1 JOHN 2:26-27

Through the inward work and witness of the Holy Spirit coupled with the Word of God, these combine to illuminate the believer to truth. The illuminating work of the Holy Spirit with the Word of God give a firm and fixed understanding of who God is. Take personal responsibility to cooperate with His work in you. As we abide in Christ, John assures every believer the result of His Divine message abiding in us is the continuing reality of communion, fellowship, and a shared life with God and the supreme blessing of eternal life promised by Christ Himself...*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.

This life we live is not eternal. It will come to an end. The shadow of death hangs over us all. We will all die. As we noted before, the rich young man asked such an important question, “*What must I do to inherit eternal life?*” (Mark 10:17) John is saying that eternal life is a promised blessing to all who believe Jesus is the Christ. Remember, it’s not that you once believed, parroted a prayer, signed a card, walked an aisle, joined a church or even that you were baptized. None of that will bring

you into a saving relationship with Christ. You must turn your heart to the Lord Jesus Christ Who God sent, born of a virgin, lived a sinless and perfect life, Who went to Calvary’s cross, bore in His body all the sins of all who would believe in Him, taken down from that cross, was buried and raised that third day. He came walking out of that tomb a risen and victorious Savior. He has ascended to the right hand of God the Father, where all authority in heaven and earth have been given to Him... and whosoever shall call upon His name, will be saved. Humble yourself, repent of your sins, and turn to Jesus Christ Who is the friend of sinners. Run to Christ and He says those who come to Him He will in no way cast out! Has God done this work in the depth of your soul? If not, run to Jesus Christ! (Romans 10:13, Acts 2:21, Matthew 11:28, Acts 2:28, Acts 4:12, Psalm 51:11, John 15:14, Acts 16:30-31)

H. THE CERTAIN HOPE OF CHRIST'S RETURN! 1 JOHN 2:28

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.⁶ 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. 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.⁷

¹ Hamilton, Ian, *Let's Study the Letters of John*. The Banner of Truth Trust: Edinburgh, UK, 2008. Pg. 21.

² Erdman, Charles R., *The General Epistles: An Exposition*. The Westminster Press: Philadelphia, PA, 1919. Pg. 123.

³ Barclay, William, *Letters of John and Jude*. The Saint Andrews Press: Edinburgh, Scotland, 1958, 1974. Pg. 69.

⁴ Hamilton, Ian, *Let's Study the Letters of John*. The Banner of Truth Trust: Edinburgh, UK, 2008. Pg. 25-26.

⁵ Hamilton, Ian, *Let's Study the Letters of John*. The Banner of Truth Trust: Edinburgh, UK, 2008. Pg. 28.

⁶ Hiebert, D. Edmond, *The Epistles of John: An Expository Commentary*. Bob Jones University Press: Greenville, SC, 1991. Pg. 126.

⁷ Candlish, Robert S., *A Commentary on 1 John*. (1st Published 1866), Banner of Truth, London. 1973. Pg. 249-250.