

So That You May Know

An Expository Study of the Epistle of **1 John**

Chapter 11- Our Confidence **1John 2: 28&29**

93. Part 1

WAOY Tuesday 10/02/07; WOSM Wednesday 02/08/23

Welcome again, my beloved in Jesus Christ. We're continuing our verse by verse "journey" through the Epistle of **1John**, and today I want to look at what John taught about "Our Great Confidence". So, let's open our Bibles and read **1John 2:28 &29**- together:

28 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.

29 If you know that He is righteous, you know that everyone also who practices righteousness is born of Him.

Now here John is instructing the disciples of the first century to abide in Jesus Christ. Now the word that was translated into English as "abide" here in verse 28, comes from the Greek word, *ménœ* (**me/nw**), which means: *to dwell continually; to live; to remain; or to set up a home. This word also has the connotation of being steadfast and constant; to be faithful and consistent.*

So, the message that John is giving here is that believers must abide in Jesus Christ. They must dwell in Him consistently and constantly; they must set up their abode within the Person of Jesus Christ. This word means that you are there for the long haul; that you are not a visitor; you do not date Jesus, beloved- you marry Him. It is a life-long commitment from which it is not possible to obtain a divorce.

So many today look at Jesus as the panacea for all their troubles. They run to Jesus when they are in danger or when the storms of life blow their way. But when things are good- when all is well- the FBI couldn't find these people. That is not abiding in Jesus Christ.

John tells us here why he wants us to abide in Jesus Christ. Look what the Apostle wrote in the last part of verse 28:

... so that when He appears, we may have confidence and not shrink away from Him in shame at His coming.

So based upon this- we can see that John says that we are to abide in Jesus Christ so that two things will be true:

1. We may have confidence
2. We will not shrink away...

And both of these things should be true at a particular place. Read where John said that we should have confidence and not shrink away:

... from Him in shame...

And John also said that there was a particular time frame when both of these things should be true:

... at His coming

So based upon verse 28- we can conclude that John wants all believers to continually dwell in Jesus Christ so those who actually do dwell continually in Jesus may have confidence and not be ashamed as we stand before God at the very instant that Jesus bursts the clouds of Glory and comes back to this earth riding his white horse to rule and reign as King of kings and Lord of lords.

So, if this is to actually be true in my life- then I have to abide in Jesus. I have to continually dwell in Jesus Christ- or in other words- I have to be faithful to Jesus and actually serve and obey and love Jesus 24 hours of every day and 7 days of every week.

So, by default that means that I can't put Jesus on hold. I can't push Jesus out of the way. I can't live like hell all week long and then shout "Amen" in Church on Sunday. I can't let my hair down on Friday night and still qualify as abiding in Jesus. I can't leave Jesus at home while I go out to paint the town red.

So, abiding in Jesus- by definition- puts limitations on my behavior- doesn't it? Abiding causes me to both do certain things and not do other things. And if I do and not do those things- then I am

abiding: and if I don't – then I am not abiding. Simple, isn't it?

For example, if I hang out of Bible Study and Prayer Meeting- because the Bible bores me and I see no need in praying at Church when I could stay home and watch the game- then I am not abiding in Jesus, am I? When I do what is right in my own eyes- then I am not abiding in Jesus- am I? When I rob God of my finances; when I rob God of my attendance; when I rob God of my service; when I rob God of my love and devotion and obedience- then I really can't say that I am abiding in Jesus, can I? I might know about Jesus; I might think a lot of Him; I might even have warm and tender feelings about Him to some small degree- but if my life looks like that- I could hardly say that I am abiding in Jesus.

John says here that if I abide in Jesus Christ- if I dwell continually in Jesus- then I will have confidence and not be ashamed before Him at His coming. So, if that is true- then the opposite is also true. If I do *not* abide in Jesus; if I do not continually dwell in Jesus Christ; if I just date Jesus- then I will not have confidence; and I will be ashamed before Him when He comes.

So, having confidence and not being ashamed is not automatic, is it? No, having confidence and not being ashamed before Jesus when He comes back is the direct result of abiding in Jesus Christ on an ongoing and continual basis.

Now we need to dig little deeper here in order to get the full meaning of what John was telling us here in the 28th verse. Look at the word, "confidence." This word comes from the Greek word, *parresia* (*parrhs*), which means: *free, fearless, and cheerful courage*. Now an interesting aspect of this Greek word is that it has to do with our speech. So this confidence is not the confidence that we need to capture a lion or jump out of a plane- but this is the free and cheerful courage that we get from knowing that our guilt has been forever taken away by the Blood of Jesus Christ and that courage is manifested in the way that we pray; and the way that we preach; and the way that we tell others about Jesus.

Now look at the word, "ashamed". This is the Greek word which has nothing to do with being embarrassed; but has to do with being condemned. What John is saying to us here is that the result of a man or woman or child abiding continually in Jesus Christ is that that person will have the full faith and assurance that Jesus Christ has

washed his sins away and that God's just wrath against him has been forever abated and that his personal guilt over the wrong that he has done has been forever lifted from him and he is no longer condemned by God and is free to love God with all his heart and with all his soul and with all his mind and with all his strength and to be filled with everlasting joy.

And here is the kicker- this must be true now. It does nobody any good at all to believe after He has died and stands before God. It is too late then. This must occur now- today is the day of Salvation. To day harden not your hearts. So, since all of this Good News is predicated upon abiding in Jesus- the question that needs to be asked about right now is this:

Do you abide in Jesus? Do you continually dwell in the Son of God? Have you been bought with a price, or do you still belong to yourself? Do you do your will or God's Will? Do you pick up your Cross and deny yourself and follow Jesus daily or only on Sunday's Christmas and Easter? Do you have a real and ongoing relationship with Jesus or are you simply dating Him? Are you engaged in an ongoing conversation with Jesus or are you on speaking terms with Him? Are you on fire for God or have you grown cold? Have the cares of life and the deceitfulness of riches and the lust of other things entered in and choked the Word until it has become unfruitful in your life or are you faithfully serving the risen Lamb?

And my brothers and sisters, here's a thought about abiding in Jesus you may not have pondered lately. When is the last time you endured some real, serious, heavy duty persecution because of your walk with God? When is the last time you were made fun of or mocked or laughed at or rejected or scorned or threatened or physically abused because you were abiding in Jesus? When is the last time that people you know, and love walked away from you because you were faithful to dwell continually in Jesus?

Now here is what John was saying. The only people who are going to do any of this; the only people who are actually going to dwell in Jesus and abide with Him on an ongoing basis- are those people who love Jesus. And the only people who truly love Jesus are those whom Jesus loved first. Keep in mind- always remember that our love *for*

God- our ability to love Jesus is a gift *from* God. Nobody possesses the love for God until God gives them that love. So, John is really talking about saved people here.

John was not teaching, and I am not teaching that the way to go to heaven is to abide in Jesus Christ. That is not true. The way to go to heaven, beloved is to be saved and those who are saved will love God and those who love God will desire to abide with Jesus. They may not always be successful in abiding with Jesus- they may fail and come short of abiding with Jesus- but saved people will always desire to abide with Jesus and when they do come short; when they do fail- they will quickly repent and learn from that mistake and correct it so that they can abide with Jesus.

Saved people abide in Jesus Christ and lost people who are yet in their sins have absolutely no desire whatsoever to abide in Jesus. That is fundamental; and is the difference between those who are saved and those who are lost.

Abiding in Jesus; dwelling continually in Jesus Christ; having a real and ongoing and powerful relationship with Jesus is the fruit of being saved. Living and abiding in iniquity and dwelling in sin and having and real and ongoing relationship with the unfruitful works of darkness is the fruit of being lost.

And John says here that because we are saved- we abide; and because we abide- we have a free, fearless and cheerful courage because we know that our sins are washed away, and we have been made fit for Heaven by the Righteousness of Jesus Christ and we are no longer condemned by the God Who has saved us. So, when Jesus comes back; When Jesus appears; when Jesus returns to this earth as King and Lord and Sovereign- we can stand before Him with no guilt or condemnation and rejoice that our names have been written in the Lamb's Book of life and we called and chosen and faithful.

Now let's read verse 29 together:

29 If you know that He is righteous, you know that everyone also who practices righteousness is born of Him.

John talks here about two kinds of knowledge: the knowledge that Jesus is righteous and the knowledge that every single one of those who are born of God does righteousness also. Now be careful that you

don't get this backward. John is not saying here that us doing righteousness causes you to be born of God. That is not true. No one can do rightly until and unless he is already born of God. Always remember that the new birth comes first. The miracle of Salvation comes first. The Sovereign act of God in saving the wretched soul of sinful man comes first and then those who have been saved and those who have been washed and made clean then these people live and do and speak and think in a righteous manner- as a result of already being saved.

So what John was saying here is that being born of God is the not the result of people doing righteous things- no, you cannot buy or earn Salvation, beloved. Salvation is a free gift of Grace and Mercy to undeserving sinners. No, what John was saying here is that every single soul who has been born of God follows Jesus and begins to act and think and live and behave himself in a righteous and holy way.

Well, I have to stop right here, but please join me on the next broadcast as we continue our journey through the Epistle of **1John**. May God help us all.

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