

Title: Ashamed at His coming

Text: I John ~~2:28-3:3~~ 2:28-3:3

Turn to I John chapter 2. I John chapter 2 beginning at Vs 28. *Then Review*

In chapter 2:18 the Apostle John wrote: "Children, it is the last hour." Then in Vs 28 he writes: "And now, little children," and he begins a discussion on the Second Coming of Jesus Christ.

Again to refresh your memory and especial to those who have not been with us in our study of I John. This book deals with the doctrine of Assurance. How do I know that I am saved? How do I know that I have eternal life? John writes these things that we may know that we have eternal life. That the life of Jesus Christ is in us and we are saved. John deals with the doctrine of Assurance.

*Our Subject:
Ashamed at His Coming*

Now, let's look at chapter 2 ~~starting~~ starting with Vs 28. I invite you to follow along as I read starting at Vs 28 through vs 3 of chapter 3

READ 2:28- 3:3

SHALL WE PRAY

Our Father in Heaven, we thank you that this is your book. ~~That~~ ^{God} And we can trust it and rely upon it because it was written by the Holy Spirit, ~~of God~~. We thank you ~~that~~ for speaking through the fathers and the prophets in many portions and in many ways in days gone by. And we thank you in these last days for speaking to us through your Son, Jesus Christ.

We thank you that in the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God, and the Word was God and he was in the beginning with God. And we thank you that the word became flesh and dwelt among us and we beheld His glory, ~~and~~ the glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth. Speak to our hearts through your word, we pray.

And may we not be ashamed of his coming. Thought Jesus Christ our Lord
Amen

(1B)

Perhaps we should back up for just a moment. And look at the meaning of the term "last ~~Days~~^{hour}." Notice, please, the little phrase in chapter 2:18, "Little children, it is the last hour." Your KJ says "last times". This is simply referring to the "last days". The "last days" began with Peter's message on the day of Pentecost and they will conclude at the end of what is known as the Tribulation period. We are in the last days. There have been ^{1986 - 5 month} 1900 years, now, to the last days. And we are in the close of those last days.

~~Peter~~^{Paul} wrote in 2 Timothy chapter 3 that difficult times will come in the "last days" for men will be lovers of self, lovers of money, arrogant, disobedient to parents, ungrateful, brutal, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God." We are living in the close of the last days. ^{now} And ~~there~~ are three things that you should remember about these days.

(1C) It is the last ~~times~~^{Days} from God's prophetic program. For the Bible teaches us that the next great time period that God has, is the establishment of the literal reign of Jesus Christ upon the earth for 1000 years. This is taught in Revelation chapter 20. Therefore, it is the last ~~times~~^{Days} from the stand point of God's prophecy. His prophetic program.

(2C) It is, also, the last ~~time~~^{Days}, from the stand point of God's revelation. The Bible tells us in Hebrews chapter 1 that God spoke long ago to the Fathers and the prophets in many portions and in many ways, but in these "last days" he has spoken to us through his son."

The complete and final revelation of God is not only in the written word; but in a living person who is here, Jesus Christ. It is the last ~~days~~ from the stand point of what God is saying to us. He has no more to say. He has said what he is going to say; and it is the last days for man's opportunity to hear from God. You have heard through Christ. ^{and Today} You are hearing through the Word. It is God's last days...

(3) I am, also, reminded that it is the last ^{DAYS} times from the stand point of ^{our} man's opportunity. God is saying to us over and over again that behold, now is the acceptable time, now is the day of salvation. In the age in which we are now living, which began on the day of Pentacost, it is God purpose to take Jew and Gentile and make them one in Jesus Chrsit.

As Ephesians say~~d~~ to make one ^{us} "new man". And the opportunity for ^{us} man to be saved is clearly spoken of in Romans 1:16 where Paul says: "I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to every one who believes, to the Jew first and also the the Greek."

~~And~~ ^{So} it is the time for ^{our} man's decision. ^{we} He must accept Jesus Christ because the time period is closing. The time of ^{our} his opportunity.

Therefore, it is very ~~im~~ important that we understand the period of the last ^{Day or Last hour} time.

^{omit} Now in chapter 2:18 John said it is the last ^{hour} time and I want you to be aware of ANTICHRIST. Because people will deceive you. ~~As~~ Peter says in 2 Peter 3 that in the last days mockers will come saying: "Where is the promise of His coming?" I thought you said that Jesus is coming." Well, where is he?

Not to long ago, Redbook, took a survey of ministers. ^{in America} And ~~as~~ a result of that survey revealed that only 11% of hundreds and hundreds of ministers acrossed all kinds of denominations, only 11% believed in a literal, bodily return of Jesus Christ.

John writes ---THAT CHRIST IS COMING AGAIN. It is the last ^{DAYS} times. And don't let the materialism and the mockers, and the decievers, led you astry. Christ is coming again. And John wrote these words in view of the return of Christ. ~~AND~~ ^{two} THERE ARE ~~THREE~~ THINGS THAT ARE EFFECTED BY OUR KNOWLEDGE OF HIS COMING.

Two Things that I want to share with you

I

(10)

Number one, in Vs 28, he mentions our concern. What should be the concern of ~~all~~ ^{the} Christians knowing that Jesus could come at any moment? He spells it out clearly in Vs 28: "And now, little children, abide in Him." ---- ("Abide in him!" "So that if He should appear, we may have confidence (the word is boldness or **freedom** of speech) and not shrink away from Him in shame." (If you are a Christian, when Christ comes again you will be ~~not~~ caught up to meet Him in the sky. BUT ~~John~~ teaches in Vs 28 that some Christians will be caught by surprise and they will ~~shrink~~ ^{mean} away. They will lack ~~boddness~~ boldness. They will lack confidence at His presence. ~~WHY?~~

Again I remind you that

John wrote this book to give us the doctrine of **ASSURANCE**. So we would have boldness. So we would have confidence. ~~But~~ **HE IS WARNING THAT SOME WILL NOT HAVE THAT CONFIDENCE.** They ~~will~~ will not have that boldness when they see Jesus face to face. ~~But~~

They will be there because they have accepted Christ and trusted Him. But they will be ashamed. They will shrink away from Him at his coming. ~~Which means: at His literal presence.~~

NOW, WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO ABIDE IN HIM? ---- You know, it is so easy to be concerned about a number of things. Over and over again, people tell me about things we should be concerned about. There are scores of things christians ought to be concerned about. Issues throughout our country. Issues within the christian world. Issues - Issues - Issues. But, John says, one thing we should be concerned about, knowing that Christ will return, IS THAT WE ABIDE IN HIM. WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO ABIDE IN HIM?

I would like you to turn back to the Gospel of John chapter 15. As we learned last week, the ~~principle~~ ^{principle} of abiding teaches that there are three things that abide in the Christian. They are: (1) the Word of God abides in us, (2) eternal life abides in us, and (3) the Holy Spirit

abides in us. Three things abide in us. And we abide in one thing. We abide in Christ by way of Position. So, on the bases of that, John tells us to abide in Christ. And he is asking us to do it, now. Thus, we are not talking about any of those four items. We are talking about something else.

ant

What is it?

Now I want to develop that idea a little more by asking the question: What Does it mean to abide in Him?

John 15:4...(read 4-10)

From these verses we learn a tremendous truth. That the abiding in Christ refers to a source of strength in our life; and we are commanded to abide in His love. And he says, specifical, here, if we keep his commandments, which we know from 1st John refers to "the truth" or "his Word", if we keep his word, we are abiding in his love.

In other words, the primary sense of abiding in Christ is to let his Word so abide in you that his thoughts become your thoughts. That his words become your words. That ^{his} ~~he~~ acts become your acts. So, when John wrote in light of the coming of Christ, and said "abide in him" ..What he was referring to was the abiding of the Word of God in my life. As I keep His commandments, as I keep His truth, I am abiding in ^{then} Christ. And that ^{my answer} abiding in Christ is the source of my strength and my fruitfulness. Abiding in His love is to keep His commandments as it says in John 15:10.

And so John says: "and now, little children, abide in him." The word of God, eternal life, and the Holy Spirit already abide in you. But, he is commanding us to abide in Christ. And from John 15 we learn that it is His word that abides in us. And ^{that} ~~it~~ is the source of our strength ^{and} ~~and~~ ^{answer}

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And isn't it sad that in the light that Christ could come today, that so many Christians, if you are honest with yourself, are not studying the Word of God as a habit of life. In fact, many do not even come to Sunday School to stddy for one hour a week. And the Word of God is not abiding in us. We are not familiar with this book....

We give token appreciation to it. Yet, this book is the final revelation of God, in these last days. And beloved, I urge you and admonish you, if the second coming of Christ means anything to you, it ought to make you so concerned, it ought to make you hunger for the Word of God. WHY?

Softly

So we will not be ashamed at his coming. But, we will have confidence. We will have boldness. We will not shrink away from him, ~~if the Word of God is abiding in us.~~ *because we are abiding* That is what it means to abide in him. The Word of God abides in me and that is my abiding in Christ.....

(2C) Now, come back to I John, please. ~~No,~~ The second thing that is affected by our knowledge of Christ's coming is our confidence. John says in Vs 28: "We may have confidence and not shrink away from Him in shame at His coming."

And then in the next three verses - Vs 29 - Vs 1 and 2 of chapter 3 - John gives three things which are the foundation for confidence. Our confidence - our boldness when Christ comes again is based upon three ^{things} ~~things~~.

(1D) First, it is based on the righteousness of Christ.

Notice, Vs 29: "If you know that He is righteous..." That is Christ. "You know that every one also who practices--that is as a habit of life--- "everyone who practices righteousness, as a habit of life, is born of Him." Literal the text reads "has been born of him."

What is the point?....My position as a Christian is in Christ. I have His righteousness. My practice is not my righteousness. It is His righteousness. And my confidence before Him at His coming is based upon the righteousness of Christ. That when Christ comes, I do not bring before God my own merits. I do not bring my self-righteousness before God, for I have none....It is the righteousness of Christ.

And if I know He is righteousness, then I ought to, also, know that everyone who is practicing righteousness as a habit of life reveals the truth that they are born of God.

They are saved. Well, you are living like the world, you are not practicing righteousness - Then you are not saved. Not what does it mean to live like the world.

~~God~~. ^{It isn't} ~~The point is:~~ ~~not~~ that I go out and practice righteousness and then convince someone that I am a Christian. The point is: that I am already a Christian, I am born of God, and the obvious result is that I practice the righteousness of Christ. ^{Truthfulness - Honesty -} ~~Because I have none of my own.~~

So what is ~~the~~ ^{the voice} saying, ~~here?~~ ^{here?} IT IS DEMANDING OUR FAITH ⁱⁿ the RIGHTEOUSNESS ONE, HIMSELF, JESUS CHRIST.

SOFTLY
My friend, I don't know what you are trusting. I ~~don't~~ know how you hope you will be among those who meet Christ. BUT I want you to know just in case you have never heard it before that there is not one single thing you can do, as a human being, to be acceptable to God. NOT ONE THING. THE GRACE OF GOD FORBIDS IT. THE GRACE OF GOD IS ALL THAT GOD GIVES TO US THAT WE DON'T DESERVE. We don't have any merit of our own. There is not one thing I can do to earn God's salvation.

I won't meet ^{God} Christ, someday, because of ~~something~~ ^{great} ~~that~~ I have done. I will meet Him because of the righteousness of Jesus Christ. The day that I ask Christ to come into my heart is the day that I was placed into the righteousness of Christ. And now I have His righteousness. But I have none of my own. "If you know that He is righteous, you know that every one who practices righteousness is born of Him."

(2D) ~~(B)~~ ~~basically~~, A second thing that builds my confidence at his appearing.
It is my relationship to the Father. 3:1 : "See how great a love the Father has bestowed upon us, that we should be called children of God; and such we are." AMEN, WE ARE CHILDREN OF GOD. WHAT A RELATIONSHIP. Why will some ^{Christ} ~~people~~ shrink away at Christ coming? WHY? Because they have forgotten that the day they accepted Christ they were placed by way of position into the family of God. WE ARE CHILDREN OF GOD. Not by any merit of our own. But through faith in God. "But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name." (John 1:12)

The moment you accept Christ, at that moment you become a child of God. Vs 2 "Beloved, now we are children of God."

(3D) (9) There is a third thing that builds my confidence at His coming.

Chapter 3:2 THE REALITY OF WHAT WE SHALL BE. [REDACTED] ld
a [REDACTED]

You know, you look at yourself and I look at my self and I get to thinking, Lord, if you come now -- oh, boy -- You know what I just ~~do~~ thought of that person seating across the iale. Lord, you know how I feel about a lot of people. You know what I think. You know what I did yesterday or last week. You know all my thoughts - all my motive - all my intends. AND THE IDEA OF WHAT WE ARE NOT MAKES US SHRINK AWAY FROM HIM. He who is Holy - He who is righteousness - he who is all glory, He who is absolutel perfect. AND WE WANDER ~~what~~ WE ARE GOING TO DO OR THINK WHEN HE COMES.

Well, John reminds us of the reality of what we shall be, and now what we are, now. And let's thank God for that. You want to have confidence at His coming? Then, remember this: GOD IS GOING TO CHANGE YOU WHEN HE COMES. (Repeat)

Did you know that when you accept Christ as Saviour, God doesn't change you? We often say that. BUT HE REALLY DOESN'T?!! He doesn't really change you. HE GIVES YOU A NEW LIEE. ^{The Possibility of} ^{But} God doesn't reform you. He brings to you new life, You are born of the spirit of God, you are born into a new family by Faith in Christ. God gives you something. He gives you a new nature

~~He isn't changing your old ways.~~ To one who is in christ, ALL THINGS ARE NEW. YOU HAVE A NEW LIFE-- A NEW NATURE. ^{But you still have the old nature - sin, concept to sin}

But God is going to change that old nature, your old ways, your old appearance, your thoughts, your intends, your actions, your sinful ways. all of us do evil and God is going to change it. ^{When? When He comes, again}

Look at vs 2: "Beloved, now we are children of God, and it has not appeared as yet that we shall be. We know that, if He should appear, we shall be like Him, because we shall see Him just as he is."

What a ^{precious} verse that is. And His revelation, when He is manifested, we SHALL BE LIKE HIM *and we shall see him just as He is*

In Colossians 3:4 it says: "When Christ, who is our life, is revealed, then you also will be revealed with Him in glory." The result that happens is this: WE SHALL BE LIKE HIM.

Now, what does that mean? Well I found three things that it means.

(1) Philippinas 3:20 we learn the first thing. READ 20-21

How am I going to be like Christ? I am going to be like him in body.

You ask: "Will we recognize one another?" I believe we will have a definite ~~appearance~~ / idenfication and appearance simular to what we have now. But our bodies will be like His. ^{Meaning what?} There will be ~~not~~ more sin - no more sickness - ~~no~~ more desease.

Right now, I have a little pain in my back. It has been bothering me. If Christ comes, today, it will be gone. Have you ever stop to think about it. We are going to be like Him. OUR BODIES ARE GOING TO BE CHANGED. It will be fashioned like unto the glories body of christ.

BUT WHAT ELSE?

(2) In John 14:3. I learn a second way we shall be like Him.

READ John 14:1-3

Another way I will be like Him is that I will have the ability to be where he is. "Where I am, there you may be also." Inother words, I am changed physical and there will be a change positional - dealing with place and locatation. I will have the ability to move about and to be where Jesus is.

Tremendous concept. But there is something else.

Christ
 (3E) In I John 3:3 I learn that this change, this likeness, ~~being~~ being like him deals with me morally. It deals with the subject of purity. Notice Vs 3: "And every one who has this hope fixed on Him purifies himself, just as He is pure." W_o will be pure - holy - even as he is pure.

Now, having studied all this about the coming of Christ, Let me ask you a very personal question? REALLY, how many of us, who know Christ, REALLY BELIEVE IN OUR HEARTS THAT TODAY COULD BE THE DAY?

We can get so warped up in our Christian experience that we forget the tremendous hope IS THE RETURN OF JESUS CHRIST. And the whole point in what John is saying is that we must rest in this hope and to remember that everyone who has this hope is purifying himself, just as he is pure.

So, if our lives *anyone else* are not any different than they were 10 years ago don't blame God, because the righteousness of Christ is there and available. And he who practices it - proves he is born of Him. ~~If not born of Him then~~

I wonder what we would do - if we knew, without a shadow of a doubt, that Christ ~~was~~ coming again this afternoon at 4:00 p.m. What would you do? You knew he was coming - no doubt - no question. WHAT WOULD WE DO BETWEEN NOW AND 4:00 p.m.?

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 I am sure that for those of ~~you~~ who have never trusted Christ as Saviour, who perhaps are trusting something else, church membership, your own righteousness, a host of things, BUT YOU HAVE NEVER PERSONAL ACCEPTED CHRIST INTO YOUR LIFE, I AM SURE YOU WOULD RECOGNIZE THAT NOW IS THE TIME TO RECEIVE HIM. And the greatest step you could make is to ask Christ to come into your life. Trusting Him for what he has already done for you. He paid for all of our sin at the cross. And the moment we receive him we receive his righteousness and become a member of His family.

But, did you know that this book was written to Christians? If we knew that Christ was coming by 4:00 p.m what would we do in these last few hours? I wonder what we would do?

There are many christians who are still living in I John 1:8-9. There is sin still in the life and you will certainly be ashamed at his coming. There is no need to meet the Saviour with unconfessed sin in our lives. The bible says if we confess our sin he is faithful and just ~~to~~ forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Ashame at his coming. Jesus is coming. *I hope You will NOT Be Ashamed This Morning.*
LET US CLOSE WITH PRAYER

Our father, we thank you for the Word of God. And Lord, we realize that we have forgotten that today could be the day of your coming. And Father, we pray that the nearness of your coming might be heavy upon the ~~the~~ heart of every christian. That today might be the day that we see our saviour face to face. We pray that this will make a difference in how we live.

We pray for those who have never accept Christ as saviour. For those who have never been born of the spirit of God. May they accept Him and ~~the~~ trust him, and believe him.

We pray and ask this in the precious name of Jesus.

Amen