

~ 1 John ~

Lesson 18- Abiding unto the Forever with Jesus

We are continuing our study of **1 John 2:15-17**

This is now our 5th lesson in these three verses. The reason why we have taken so much time discussing this section is because this concept is really the heart of the letter. It is the message of everlasting life along with an intense warning not to be swayed back into the darkness. We who have received this message of everlasting life by believing in Jesus, we are children of God, and as children of God, we should be walking and have a different manner of life than the world. This is swimming against the current of the world.

John began this section with a warning, “*do not love the world or the things in the world*” and we have spent the last four weeks discussing why we are not to love the world. Last week we looked at the first half of verse 17 which said, “*and the world is passing away and the lust of it...*” and we learned that the darkness, this evil system of the world, and everything ungodly in the world will be judged in Righteous Judgement and Wrath in the last days. And this final judgement will happen in the Day of the Lord. This is the dispensation of the Day of the Lord that will last just over 1,000 years, and at the end of this 1,000 year millennial reign of Jesus, even this physical world will pass away and everything ungodly will be thrown into the lake of fire and this fallen world will be remade, 2 Peter 3:7-13.

Now today we will be looking at the latter half of verse 17 in contrast to this world passing away, because we as faithful believers in Christ are not passing away but we are abiding unto the forever with Jesus Christ. And this is the assurance John wants us to have as children of God, the assurance of everlasting life in Jesus Christ.

This is the answer to the ultimate question to life. This is what everybody is searching for. How can I have the fullness of joy and pleasures forever? The world thinks they can get it with their possessions, their status, the lust of the flesh and the pride of life, but all that is passing away. We know that the fullness of joy and pleasure forever are found in Jesus Christ, **Psalm 15** and **16**.

John tells us the same thing in this letter. In 1:4 he says he is writing these things “*so that our joy might be full*”. And in 5:13 he writes “*so that we might know that we have everlasting life*”. This is fullness of joy and pleasures forever in Christ. So how do we obtain this? “*he who is committed to the will of God abides unto the forever.*”

There are three aspects of this phrase in verse 17 that I want to point out so we can know how we can abide forever in Him.

1. Know the will of God
2. Be committed to the will of God
3. Understanding the reality of abiding unto the forever with Jesus Christ

What is the will of God? The Greek word for “will” is thelema, *θέλημα*- will, purpose, design, desire. Is it possible for us to know the will of God? The answer is, Absolutely! And in fact, it is mandatory for us to know the will of God, if we are to abide unto the forever with Jesus Christ. His will is not a mystery. He wants us to know His will. He said in Ephesians 1:9- “*having made known to us the mystery of His will, according to His good pleasure which He purposed in Himself.*” His will is revealed in His Word, and His Word will guide us according to His will. David cried out in Psalm 16- *show me the path of life...* The path of Life is the Word of Life, and this is where we find His will.

Let’s find out what the Word of God says about God’s will. What better way to hear it than from the mouth of Jesus, **John 6:40**. Jesus tells us very simply that the will of God is that we obtain everlasting life through His Son. This is the foundation of His will, the very essence of His desires for us is our salvation, **1 Tim 2:3-4**. His will lines up with His commandment and His commandment is everlasting life through believing in His Son. In Ephesians chapter 1, Paul makes it clear that the Father’s will is about having an eternal family in Christ, **Eph 1:3-6**. This is why He

created us, that He might have a family that loves Him forever. He wants us to have the fullness of joy and pleasures forever because we are His children in Christ.

As we understand the will of God, there is another element to the Father's will that Paul tells us in **1 Thessalonians 4:1-3**. Sanctification, a separation from evil, is the will of God. So putting this together, His will is that we are His children, Justified; that we are holy and blameless, Sanctified; and that we have everlasting life in Christ, Glorified. This is the process of Salvation. We begin with Justification, this is our rebirth, and then we have the lifetime walk of Sanctification that prepares us to step into Glorification forever to be with Him.

This is what Paul said in **1 Thessalonians 5:23-24**. His will is that we be completely sanctified, spirit, soul, and body, and ready to pass into eternal glory. Look at **1 Thessalonians 3:11-13**. God's will is to establish our hearts blameless in holiness. Notice it is God doing the sanctifying. He is the One establishing our hearts blameless in holiness. But in order for Him to establish our heart, we have to give Him our heart. We must love Him and be committed to Him, allow His Word to do its sanctifying work in our lives.

Turn to **John 17:15-17**- We are sanctified by the Word and kept from the evil of this world through His Word. What does this look like practically? The Father sanctifies us by His training, correcting, and instructing us through His Word. *2 Timothy 3:16-17-¹⁶ All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness,¹⁷ that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.*

His Word leads us on the path of His will that will ultimately give us the most extraordinary life we can possibly imagine, and I'm not talking about this physical life, I'm talking about eternal life with eternal glory. This is what Sanctification does, it brings us into eternal glory and that is why it is the will of God, because His will for us is eternal life with eternal glory.

So how do we get there? How can we have eternal life with eternal glory? How can we have the fullness of joy and pleasures forever? John tells us in 1 John 2:17 again, *"but he who is does the will of God abides unto the forever."*

We "DO" the will of God. What does it mean to "DO" the will of God? To answer this, we need to understand what this word means. The Greek word for "do" in verse 17 is poieo, ποιέω. Its commonly translated to do or to make, but it is so much more than that. It is a commitment of the heart. John uses this word many times and it is the key to understanding this letter. The NKJV translates this word several times as "practice", **2:29; 3:7; 1:6**. It is a habitual walk of life from the heart. This is what you are committed to, this is what you have set your heart to do. This is what your heart yearns for. This is the walk of sanctification. How do we "DO" the will of God? How do we commit our heart to the will of God?

We seek Him first in everything, John 6:33. It is putting on Jesus, and not making provision for the flesh, **Romans 13:14**. Being committed to His will is walking in Sanctification.

John tells us to purify ourselves by having the hope of eternal life in Jesus, 1 John 3:3- *And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies, ἁγνίζω (sanctifies) himself, just as He is pure, ἁγνός, (sanctified, holy)* Our hope in Jesus is what purifies and sanctifies us. Notice what our walk of Sanctification looks like. Its not works based, its having our eyes fixed on Jesus. It's the hope of His return to catch us away into eternal glory.

Jesus is returning for a faithful, spotless Bride, 2 Corinthians 11:2- *... For I have betrothed you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste, ἁγνός, (pure, sanctified, holy), virgin to Christ. Colossians 1:21-23; (Psalm 16)*

2 Peter 1:10-11- *Therefore, brethren, be even more diligent to make your call and election sure, for if you do these things you will never stumble; ¹¹ for so an entrance will be supplied to you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.*

2 Peter 3:14- *Therefore, beloved, looking forward to these things, be diligent to be found by Him in peace, without spot and blameless;* Being diligent is not works, it is what Paul said in Hebrews 4:11- *being diligent to enter into His rest.* It is laboring against evil to abide in Him.

Jesus is returning for a faithful Bride who loves Him...

Ephesians 5:26–27-²⁶ *that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word,* ²⁷ *that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish.*

Revelation 19:7–8-⁷ *Let us be glad and rejoice and give Him glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready.”* ⁸ *And to her it was granted to be arrayed in fine linen, clean and bright, for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints.*

What are the Righteous acts of the saints? It is being sanctified by the Word. Having a hope in Jesus and not being moved away from the gospel. It is having an eager expectation of His return, Hebrews 9:28- *.... To those who eagerly wait for Him He will appear a second time, apart from sin, for salvation.* Matt 25:1-13; Mark 13:31-37; Luke 12:35-48; 17:28-34; 21:34-36; James 1:12; Phil 3:11-14; 1Cor 15:50-58.

The Righteous acts of the saints is being faithful to Jesus and not playing the harlot with the world. God is serious about faithfulness, this why John says, *“Do not love the world or the things in the world”*, 1 John 2:15. Be committed to Jesus and love His appearing, 2 Tim 4:8.

It is simply committing your heart to Jesus Christ. It's not works, its love. It's being in love with Jesus Christ. It's holding fast to Jesus and His Word as the most precious thing in your life. Remember **John 14:21–23**-²¹ *He who has My commandments and keeps them, it is he who loves Me. And he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and manifest Myself to him.”* ²² *Judas (not Iscariot) said to Him, “Lord, how is it that You will manifest Yourself to us, and not to the world?”* ²³ *Jesus answered and said to him, “If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him.”* When Jesus comes for His Bride, He is not revealing Himself to the whole world, but only to those who love Him.

The faithful Christian who loves Jesus is the one who abides unto the forever with Him.

That brings us to the final statement in verse 17, *“but he who is does the will of God abides forever.”* “abides forever” in the Greek reads, *“μένει εἰς τὸν αἰῶνα.”* Literally, *“He abides unto the forever”*. This is a powerful phrase that John is using here. This exact phrase, *“μένει εἰς τὸν αἰῶνα.”* is used several other places in the Bible.

Psalm 111:3 LXX- ...And His righteousness endures forever, *“μένει εἰς τὸν αἰῶνα.”*

Psalm 112:3 LXX- ... And his righteousness endures forever, *“μένει εἰς τὸν αἰῶνα.”*

Psalm 112:9 LXX- ... His righteousness endures forever, *“μένει εἰς τὸν αἰῶνα.”*

2 Corinthians 9:9- (quoting Ps 112:9 LXX) ... *His righteousness endures forever,* *“μένει εἰς τὸν αἰῶνα.”*

These all refer to His Righteousness abiding unto the forever;

Psalm 117:2 LXX- ... the truth of the LORD *endures* forever, *“μένει εἰς τὸν αἰῶνα.”*

1 Peter 1:25- the word of the LORD endures forever, *“μένει εἰς τὸν αἰῶνα.”*

John 12:34- ...the Christ remains forever, *“μένει εἰς τὸν αἰῶνα.”*

As you can see, this term in the Bible is exclusively a phrase meant for God and in relation to who He is. God is the eternal one, He is the One who remains and abides unto the forever, *“μένει εἰς τὸν αἰῶνα.”* But Jesus says something so special in John 8:34–35-³⁴ *... “Most assuredly, I say to you, whoever commits sin is a slave of sin. ³⁵ And a slave does not abide in the house forever, but a son abides unto the forever,* *“μένει εἰς τὸν αἰῶνα”*. Because of Jesus' redemptive work on the cross, the child of God now has the right to abide unto the forever just like God.

This is our inheritance in Jesus, Eph 1:7-14. In fact, that is why He made the forever, aiona, *αἰῶνα*, so that we can live and abide forever with Him as a family. God is outside of time. He doesn't need forever. He is outside of forever, but God made the forever for us, and He is choosing to abide in the forever with us; to put Himself in this creation forever so that we can be an eternal family.

Love Jesus and His Word. Hold Him fast as precious. Be committed to the Father's desire to be sanctified, and have eternal life with Him. If you do this, if this is the desire of your heart, then Jesus will come and catch you away as His spotless Bride, together to be with Him forever. This is eternal life with eternal glory.

That we might have the fullness of joy and pleasures forever in Him.