

## ~ 1 John ~

## Lesson 22- When He Appears

We are continuing our study in First John, and we are starting another section in this epistle that spans **1 John 2:28-3:3**. As we have said before, John's writing style doesn't have clearly defined sections. He merely goes from thought-to-thought expounding to us the incomprehensible idea of our Everlasting Life with God all the while circling around our Fellowship with God the Father and His Son Jesus Christ. And interweaved through this letter is the warning of antichrists, these deceivers trying to sway us from the Truth.

In verses 2:28 – 3:3, John is focusing on our Blessed Hope and what it means to be a child of God FOREVER. This is John's main reason for writing this entire letter, *“that we might know that we have Eternal Life, and that we might continue to believe in the name of the Son of God.”* 1 John 5:13. This is walking by faith. Believing that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the Living God and He is the only Way to Eternal Life. It is having hope in Jesus and keeping our eyes completely fixed on Him because He is our Savior. He is our life and without Him we can do nothing. This is the walk of Sanctification.

This epistle of 1 John is a letter of Sanctification and John tells us in 3:3, *“that everyone who has this hope in Him, purifies ἑαυτὸν (sanctifies) himself, just as He is pure ἅγιος, (sanctified, holy).”* Our Blessed Hope, the hope of eternal life in Jesus Christ, the hope of living and abiding with Him forever, will change the way you live this life. The more you understand the love God has for you, the more you desire to abide in Him and allow His Word to abide in you and this will result in sinning less. Christianity is a call to holiness, and the key to making this a reality is abiding in Him. Are you making Him your treasure? Are you completely dependent on Jesus Christ? Is His Word of Life daily bread for your soul? Because if the Word of Life is abiding in you, then John tells us we have the promise that we will, in the future, abide in Him for all eternity. This is the promise of eternal life, and it is promised to those who abide in Him, to those who are in Fellowship with Him, and this hope, John says in 3:3, will purify your soul just as He is pure resulting in eternal holiness.

Let's start with looking at verse 28 with this in mind...

<sup>28</sup> And now, little children, abide in Him, that when He appears, we may have confidence and not be ashamed before Him at His coming.

<sup>28</sup> καὶ νῦν, τέκνιά, μένετε ἐν αὐτῷ· ἵνα ὅταν φανερωθῇ ἔχῳμεν παρρησίαν, καὶ μὴ αἰσχυνθῶμεν ἀπ' αὐτοῦ, ἐν τῇ παρουσίᾳ αὐτοῦ.

<sup>28</sup> And now, little children... abide in Him...

John starts verse 28 by saying, *“and now...” καὶ νῦν*, and John does this because in verse 27, he just gave us the promise of abiding in Him in the future, *“... you will abide in Him, μενεῖτε ἐν αὐτῷ”*. And in verse 28 he says, *“And now...”* John transitions from the future tense of one day abiding in Him, to the present here and now. And John does this to say that our eternal abode in Jesus starts now. We must continue abiding in Him presently, because if you wait until He comes, it will be too late. His Word needs to be abiding in us, and we must be abiding in Him, NOW.

Also in verse 28, he addresses his *“little children, τέκνιά”*. This is an endearing letter to his little children and he is saying, *“because you have received the message of everlasting life and you have the Words of Life abiding in you, and you have the anointing teaching you all Truth and giving you the hope of everlasting life in Jesus...”* <sup>28</sup> and now, little children, in this present time... continue abiding in Him. You can see the urgency John has for his little children to remain and to abide in Jesus Christ.

This word *“abide”* is *menete, μένετε*, is a present tense, imperative command. You little children, continue abiding in Him, presently, actively, without stopping. This is John's exhortation to his little children, and he uses the imperative mood here. There are only seven imperative commands in this letter, and this is the 3<sup>rd</sup> of 7. So far we have seen, 1) 2:15- **Do not love** the world... 2) 2:24- **let that abide** in you which you heard from the beginning (the Word of Life)... 3) 2:28- You, little children, **abide in Him**... 4) 3:7- Little children, **let no one deceive you**... 5&6) 4:1- Beloved, **do not believe** every spirit, but **test** the spirits... 7) 5:21- Little children, **keep yourselves** from idols

Notice that 5 of the 7 imperatives have to do with our sanctification, keeping away from evil, and the other two deal with our Fellowship with God. Our Sanctification is what enables us to draw close to Him. Because as He is continually cleansing our soul from sin and a guilty conscience, it is allowing us to take part in Him. Allowing us to dwell in Him, and continually enjoy fellowship with Him and to continually abide in Him, Hebrews 9:14;10:14, 22; Psalm 51.

This is living by faith... knowing that we need a Savior. It is living and abiding daily in Him,  
continually in dependance and Fellowship with our Savior.

This is what John wants for his little children, to be continually abiding in Him... <sup>28</sup>...so that when He appears, we may have confidence and not be ashamed before Him at His coming. The Greek literally says, “and not be shamed away from Him...” καὶ μὴ αἰσχυνθῶμεν ἀπ’ αὐτοῦ.

The key is Fellowship, and John commands us to continue abiding in Him, continue to have Fellowship with Him “...so that”, ἵνα, stating the purpose. This is why we must continue to abide in Him now in this life. SO THAT... when He appears, we may have confidence and not be shamed away from Him at His coming. John is speaking of a future coming, a future appearing of Jesus Christ. And he tells us that we must be ready now, so that when He appears in the future, we will have this confidence and not be ashamed and we will be caught away into eternal glory.

“...when He appears...” What appearing is John speaking of? John tells us in this verse that His appearing is happening at His coming. “when He appears, we may have confidence and not be shamed away from Him at His coming.” He will reveal Himself when He comes. That’s the idea. So we need to look at these two words together, His appearing and His coming...

This word “appears” is phanerao, φανερώω. It comes from the root word phaino, φαίνω, to shine. There are several variations of this word that pertain to the appearing of Jesus Christ. In fact the New Testament records four “appearings” of Jesus Christ specifically using this word, phanerao, φανερώω.

- 1) The first appearance was at His first coming, His incarnation, 1 John 1:2; 3:5; 3:8; 4:9
- 2) He appeared again after His Resurrection, John 21:1, 14; Mark 16:14
- 3) The third appearing is at the harpazo, ἁρπάζω, the rapture, the catching away of the saints, Col 3:4; 1 John 3:2; 1 Peter 5:4; John 14:21-23
- 4) and finally, His fourth and final appearing will be at His second coming when He appears to the whole world and defeats the anti-christ, takes back the earth, and sets up His millennial kingdom and reigns as King of kings and Lord of lords, 2 Thessalonians 2:8

And the word “coming” is parousia, παρουσία, which comes from the root word, pareimi, παρίειμι meaning to be alongside or to be present. parousia, παρουσία, means arrival, coming, presence, advent. Many people associate the parousia, παρουσία, of Jesus to only His second coming at the end of the Tribulation, but just as Jesus has multiple appearings, phanerao, φανερώω, Scripture tells us of multiple Parousia’s.

- 1) Peter refers to His incarnation as a parousia, παρουσία, 2 Peter 1:16
- 2) We see the, parousia, παρουσία, in reference to catching away of His Bride at the rapture, 1 Thess 2:19; 3:13; 5:23; 2 Thess 2:1; 1 Cor 15:23; James 5:7-8.
- 3) and at His 2<sup>nd</sup> Coming at the end of the Tribulation, Matthew 24:27-31; Jude 14; Revelation 19:11-16; 2 Thessalonians 2:8; 2 Peter 3:12

It’s clear that we there are multiple appearings and multiple comings of Jesus, so which appearing and coming is John speaking of in 2:28? John tells us in 1 John 3:2, “that when He appears, phanerao, φανερώω, we shall be like Him, (in glory), for we shall see Him as He is.” This is undoubtedly the harpazo, ἁρπάζω, the rapture, the catching away of the saints because this is the point in time when we will be like Him because we will receive our glorified bodies, 1 Thessalonians 4:15-17; 1 Cor 15:35, 42-52, 58; Colossians 1:21-23; 3:1-4.

This is the wife making herself ready for Jesus, because Jesus is coming back for a spotless Bride. He is coming back for those who love Him, for those who are eagerly waiting for Him. There is no other appearing and no other coming

that will result in eternal life with eternal glory. Only those who are caught away in the *harpazo*, ἀρπάζω, will abide forever in Him as His Bride, 2 Cor 11:2; Ephesians 5:26-27; Rev 19:7-8; Heb 9:28; 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; 1 Jn 3:3; **Jn 14:1-3, 21-23**; Col 1:21-23; 2 Pet 1:10-11; 3:14.

And this is what John wants for his little children. For us to have the fullness of joy and pleasures forevermore and this is only found in Jesus, Ps 16:11. This is why John says... <sup>28</sup> Abide in Him now, in this life... *so that when He appears* (at the rapture), *we may have confidence and not be shamed away from Him at His coming*.

I want to point out something with this word “appears”, φανερωθῇ. It is in the subjunctive mood, meaning it is conditional. How is Jesus’ appearing conditional? It is conditional, not from Jesus’ perspective, because it is a fact that He is returning, but it is conditional to the one whom Jesus is appearing to because at the *harpazo*, ἀρπάζω, Jesus is only going to appear to those who love Him. If you don’t love Him, if you are not abiding in Him, you won’t see Him when He appears.

Hebrews 9:28- ... *To those who eagerly wait for Him He will appear a second time, apart from sin, for salvation*.

So we must be ready now and have an eager expectation for His return. This is the hope John speaks of in 3:3. Everyone who has this hope in Him, the hope of spending eternity with Jesus as His Bride, purifies himself just as He is pure. This is the point of the parable of the Ten Virgins that Rick spoke about last week. We must be expectant and ready for His return.

John continues in verse 28 and describes the result of being expectant and ready for Him. He says, “...continue abiding in Him, SO THAT when He appears, *we may have confidence and not be shamed away from Him at His coming*.” This word “confidence” is *parresia*, παρρησία. This word has the sense of speaking freely and having a boldness of speech.

Acts 4:31- *And when they had prayed, the place where they were assembled together was shaken; and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and they spoke the word of God with boldness, parresia, παρρησία.*

2 Corinthians 3:12- *Therefore, since we have such hope, we use great boldness of speech, parresia, παρρησία*

1 John 4:17- *Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness, parresia, παρρησία, in the day of judgment; because as He is, so are we in this world.* (boldness at the Bema Seat)

What does it mean to have a boldness of speech at His appearing or the boldness of speech in the day of Judgment? I think it is the boldness to praise and worship our God in His presence. It’s a boldness to run into His arms. Our God so awesome and so Holy and so Righteous, how could we say or do anything in His presence? But it is because we are His children, and because we are abiding in Him, we know Him, we cry out, Abba Father! Daddy! Romans 8:15-16. Because otherwise, without this boldness, we would run and hide in shame.

This is what John continues to say in verse 28, “that we may have confidence *and not be shamed away from Him at His coming*.” Those who are not abiding in Him, who are not eagerly expecting Him, those who don’t have Fellowship with Him will be shamed away from Him. This is like the 5 foolish virgins who Jesus said, “I do not know you...and the door was shut.”

But you my brethren, you have the anointing abiding in you, and you know the Truth, 1 John 2:27. You are not of the darkness that this Day should overtake you as a thief, but you are of the Light, therefore let us watch and be sober..., 1 Thess 5:4-6. Keep your eyes fixed on Jesus and His Word, **Colossians 3:1-4, 16**.

We who are abiding in Him and allowing His Word to abide in us will not be shamed away, **2 Tim 2:15; 1 John 2:5; Romans 5:1-5**.

This is the walk of Sanctification. This is abiding in Him, allowing His Word to abide in us, it is clothing ourselves in Him so that when He appears we will have boldness to praise Him and cry out, “Abba Father!” and not be shamed away at His coming.

Having this hope of everlasting life purifies our soul as we hunger and thirst for Righteousness. This is surrendering our entire heart to Him, and if we do this, He promises us eternal life with eternal glory.