

## *That You May Know*

Abiding in Christ — 1 John 2:28-29  
March 17, 2019

And now, little children, abide in him, so that when he appears we may have confidence and not shrink from him in shame at his coming. **-1 John 2:28**

### I. REASONS TO ABIDE

- John gives us multiple reasons to abide in God/Christ/the word/the Spirit in his letter:
  1. So that we may not stumble (2:10)
  2. To be strong and to overcome the evil one (2:14)
  3. To be in unity with the Father and the Son (2:24)
  4. In order to discern truth from error (2:27)
  5. In order to have confidence at Christ's return (2:28)
  6. That we may not sin (3:6; 3:9)
  7. That we might care for others' needs (3:17)
  8. To demonstrate that the Spirit lives in us (3:24; 4:13)
  9. That God's love may be perfected in us (4:12)
- Jesus will appear again—this is one of the great hopes of our faith (Matt. 24:27, 30, 39-44; 1 Cor. 15:23; 1 Thess. 5:23; Col. 3:4; 2 Tim. 4:8; James 5:7-8).
- There are two possibilities for us when Christ appears:
  1. We will be confident (2 Tim. 4:8).
  2. We will shrink back in shame (Matt. 25:1-13; Mark 13:32-37).

### II. BORN OF GOD

- A person's knowledge of God helps them discern who is truly one of his followers (vs. 29; John 13:35; 15:8; Acts 4:13).
- The formula is relatively simple: If you know that God is righteous, those who practice righteousness are God's children (John 1:9-13; 6:28-29).

**KNOW:** Confidence at the return of Christ demands abiding in Christ. God is righteous, so are those who are called by his name.

**DO:** Abide in Christ and be confident when he returns.

#### Suggested Reading:

*Daring to Draw Near* by John White (LifePoint Library #248.32)

*Jesus Wins: The Good News of the End Times* by Dayton Hartman  
(LifePoint Library #230 HAR)

#### Questions/Discovery Points for Life Groups/Families

##### Please Read 1 John 2:28-29

1. What is John's main point in this concluding thought to chapter two?
2. John says concerning Christ "when he appears..." Does he demonstrate any doubt about the return of Jesus? If not, why not, do you think?
3. What might cause us to shrink back in shame when Jesus returns?
4. How does knowing God's character help us discern who actually is a genuine follower of God?
5. What does it mean to be "born of God"?
6. How do we practice righteousness?
7. What is one takeaway you can name from this passage?