

Abiding Leads to Boldness!

1 John 2.28

We've arrived at the heart of 1 John – living a life that leads to boldness when we stand before Christ! Confessing our sins leads to intimacy with God, and we've been warned against the antichrists. Now we look ahead to the Judgment Seat of Christ, and getting ready for that day!

Where We're Going (2.28-4.19)

Abiding in Christ leads to Confidence at His Coming (2.28; 4.17-19)

Abiding in Christ leads to Righteousness, never to sin (2.29-3.10a)

Abiding in Christ leads us to have love for one another (3.10b-23)

Abiding in Christ leads to God's Spirit controlling us (3.24-4.16)

The Theme Verse for the Heart of First John (2.28)

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.

- The audience: "Little children"
- The exhortation: "Abide in Him"
- The focus: "When He appears...at His coming"
- The objective: "Have confidence and not...shame"



1. Let's take a quick look back at what we've covered in First John to this point. What shows us that John is writing to Christians (the way John refers to his readers, what he exhorts them to do, etc.)? What is his 'focus' in writing them (see 1.3, 6, 7)? What does he say about "light," "darkness," and sin in 1.5-2.2? What behaviors in our lives show that we have come to know God *intimately* (2.3-11)? What are our sources of strength ('spiritual assets') as we face spiritual battles in life (2.12-15)? What does John exhort and instruct us about 'the world' in 2.15-17? How does he describe false teachers who seek to deceive Christians (2.18-27)? In addition to warning us about them, how can we identify, expose, and overcome them?
2. 1 John 2.28-4.19 is the "body" of this epistle, where John gives the 'heart' of his instruction. Earlier (in 2.6) he had said that abiding in Christ involves a Christlike walk (lifestyle). But what does that look like? How will keeping Christ's commands be manifest in our lives? Read these verses aloud. What major ideas does John focus on?
3. John's instruction on the "abiding" life in 2.28-4.19 is 'book-ended' by a reference to a coming "day of judgment" (4.17) when Jesus will appear (2.28). To what future judgment of believers does this refer? What two opposite experiences can believers have at this judgment? What will a believer who lives an "abiding" life experience when he stands before Christ on this day of judgment?
4. The possibility of having "confidence" (some translate "boldness") and not "shame" (2.28) at the Judgment Seat of Christ is astounding! Imagine standing before Christ and having your life evaluated! What was John's reaction upon seeing Christ in Rev. 1.17?! How serious is this judgment (Rom. 14.10-12; 2 Cor. 5.10-11)? In 1 Cor. 3.12-15, how will the quality of our works be revealed? What will a believer who has squandered his life *feel* on that day? What will a Christian who has invested his life for Christ *feel* on that day? See the parables of the Wise Servant (Mt. 24.45-51; Lk. 12.42-48) and the Talents (Mt. 25.14-30; Lk. 19.12-26), where Jesus contrasts the experience of faithful and unfaithful believers at the Judgment Seat of Christ.

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