

The Blessings of Abiding in Jesus

Lesson for Sunday, March 9, 2025

TEXT: 1 John 2:28 – 3:3

INTRODUCTION:

- ⇒ Review what John has taught us so far...
 - He has encouraged us to find full joy in fellowship with God the Father & the Son (1:1-4).
 - He has called us to walk in the light of God and stay close to Christ (1:5-2:2).
 - They are to do this by obeying the Lord's commands and loving others (2:3-11).
 - They must also know who they are in Christ and not be seduced by the world (2:12-17).
- ⇒ In today's text, John exhorts us to abide in Christ and pursue a righteous life as we live in the hope of His coming.
 - In other words, as Christians, what we are going to be then ought to transform the we are today!
 - Stephen Covey said it like this: Begin with the end in mind.
- ⇒ In 3:2 we have the promise that one day we will be like Jesus. We call that glorification. That will happen when we transfer from this life to the next.
 - In the meantime, we are living in the process of sanctification – daily becoming more and more like what we will one day be!
- ⇒ The key to today's study is written about in 2:24 – we are to “continue in the Son and in the Father.” Now John outlines four wonderful blessings that are promised to everyone who keeps abiding in Christ.

BIBLE STUDY:

1. You will be confident at His coming (1 John 2:28).
 - a. The word “abide” in this verse is a present imperative – a word of command that calls for consistent action. We are to remain in constant union with Christ.
 - i. DISCUSS: How do we abide in Christ? This includes both our salvation and our sanctification.
 - b. If we abide in Christ John writes that we will “have confidence and not be ashamed before Him at His coming.”
 - c. John is saying, “Christ is coming again! He will appear on this earth in full public display as King of kings and Lord of lords. When He appears, will you have confidence, or will you be ashamed?”
 - d. There are two points for us to consider in light of this verse:
 - i. John seems to be teaching that it is possible to be saved and yet ashamed when you stand before Jesus. This would correspond with 1 Corinthians 3:12.
 - ii. But John could also be making the point that some will be ashamed because they are actually lost. This would correspond with Mark 8:38.
 - e. We don't want to be in either of these situations! The solution: abide in Christ!
 - i. What would be your reaction to seeing Jesus today?
 - ii. Your answer can be revealing in terms of your spiritual status and health.
 - f. This much we know: God wants you to have confidence at Jesus's appearing. That confidence can be yours if you abide in Christ.
2. You will be certain you are His child (2:29-3:1).
 - a. These verses state an obvious truth: The fruits reveal what is in the roots.
 - b. Being born of God has definite and abiding results. The children of God will grow to look like God their Father. Our practice is proof of our parentage. The righteous Savior produces righteous saints.
 - c. In 3:1, John carries this argument an additional step by explaining how the love of God the Father is the source of our privilege to be His children.

- d. The Father's love is a forever-love and its results are two-fold:
 - i. We are now called the children of God!
 - ii. This is truly who we are! Once we were slaves to sin, now we are children of God.
- 3. You will be conformed to Christ (3:2).
 - a. Our salvation through the Gospel of Jesus Christ is more than a rescue – it is a complete and total renovation – a transformation that transcends what any human words can describe.
 - b. In this verse there are things we can know and things we cannot know:
 - i. First, we can know that are loved (“Beloved”) and that we are God’s sons and daughters right now – this very moment.
 - ii. Second, what we will ultimately be is not completely known to us at the present time. We are already children of God, but we do not yet experience all the benefits that salvation promises for God’s children. We are still in process.
 - iii. Third, we will one day be like Jesus! What a day that will be!
 - c. We don’t know all that being made like Jesus means. What we do know is it will be better than we could ever hope or imagine!
- 4. You will be consistent in your consecration (3:3).
 - a. Verse 2 is the very definition of Christian hope, and verse 3 is the natural response to that hope.
 - b. This hope is the confident certainty that God is going to conform me to the exact image of His Son, and consequently it motivates me to continually pursue a life of purity and holiness, just as Jesus is pure and holy.
 - c. The word “pure” means free from contamination.
 - d. Here’s the key: My hope for the future enables me to pursue holiness in the present.

APPLICATION:

- ⇒ Make sure you take time to discuss how we abide in Christ on a practical level. Here are some daily practices to highlight:
 - Daily engagement with God’s Word
 - Consistent prayer
 - Active church participation
 - Renew your mind – replace worldly thoughts with Biblical thoughts (Rom. 12:2).
 - Simple obedience – read the Word and obey the Word.
- ⇒ How does knowing that we will one day “be like Him” motivate us to become more like Him day-to-day?

NEXT WEEK’S TEXT: 1 John 3:4-10