

LIVE WITH HOPE IN DARK TIMES

1 John 2:28-29

INTRODUCTION

- In difficult, challenging, chaotic, and confusing times, hopelessness can set in.
- Hope changes perspective and outlook, lifts our soul, provides peace, and recalibrates us.
- A challenge of seemingly perpetual difficult times is one's mental and emotional fatigue and subsequent hopelessness.

ILLUST.: *A warm getaway in February provides temporal hope in the mid-winter.*

- **Biblical hope is a desired expectancy** of a guaranteed future reality secured in God with an eternal duration.
- God's hope is described as a strong and trustworthy anchor to our soul.

MESSAGE THEME: *Live with an eternal perspective and hope found in Jesus' return.*

REVIEW

- We have seen John demonstrate the evidence of one who is in *fellowship with God*.
- John also those in fellowship with God as those who are *in the light*.
- People who say they are *walking in the light* will:
 1. Pursue living righteous and obedient to God,
 2. Pursue living in God's love toward others,
 3. Live with fidelity to the person and truth of Jesus Christ as God who came and lived sinlessly as a human, died, and resurrected.
- Now, John begins going through the cycle a second time. He will address the "righteousness test," the "love test," and the "truth test" in the context of being a *child of God*.

EXHORTATION TO THOSE WHO ABIDE IN CHRIST vs. 2:28-29

The Exhortation vs. 2:28a

1 John 2:28 (ESV) *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.*

- John ended the previous verse (vs. 27) with the command to *abide in Him*. This means to exist and conduct your life in His life.
 - Through God's truth, prayer, worship, fellowship, and obedience.
- The *anointing* in the previous verse (27) is an enduring and permanent reality in relationship with God the Father, Jesus Christ, and the person.

- To *abide* in God or in Jesus indicates an existential and enduring relationship.
- John is encouraging them from a foundation of their position of fellowship, or abiding (vs. 27), to live out the practice of fellowship, or abiding (vs. 28).
- The Christian faith or life is not passive but one of action and initiative.

The Motivation vs. 2:28b

1 John 2:28 (ESV) 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.

Confidence Regarding Jesus' Coming

- The Bible teaches clearly that Jesus will return to earth. He is coming again.
- It is a dominant N.T. theme mentioned at least **318 times in all but 2 of the N.T. books.**

a.) . . .when He appears . . .

- appears translated from Gk. wd. derived from *phaneroo*
 - a. *be made known; to fully disclose*
 - b. *show or reveal oneself, appear to someone*, i.e. of the Second Advent 1 Jn. 2:28; 3:2bⁱ
- This suggests an open and public revelation of Jesus Christ.

Matthew 24:27–31 (ESV) *For as the lightning comes from the east and shines as far as the west, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. 28 Wherever the corpse is, there the vultures will gather. 29 "Immediately after the tribulation of those days the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken. 30 Then will appear in heaven the sign of the Son of Man, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. 31 And he will send out his angels with a loud trumpet call, and they will gather his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.*

b.) . . . confidence, not shrinking at His coming.

- *coming* is translated from Gk. wd. *Parousia*
 - The word *parousia* is a technical term in theological language for the second coming of Jesus Christ.
 - The idea of the *parousia* is present in Jn. 21:22-23 and **1 Jn. 3:2.**

1 John 3:2 (ESV) *Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is.*

- It finds technical use for the visits of rulers or high officials with an open recognition of position, grandeur, and honor.ⁱⁱ
- A time is coming when Jesus will visibly appear in grandeur, honor, and power as God the Son, the Messiah.

The Response

- People will react to Jesus' return in one of two ways; some will have confidence, and some will shrink from Him in shame.

Those with Confidence

- Those who are in the abiding position and relationship with God the Father and Son will have *confidence*.
- *confidence* is translated from the Gk. wd. *Parresian*, which means to have courage or boldness . . .;ⁱⁱⁱ

1 Thessalonians 3:13 (ESV) *so that he may establish your hearts blameless in holiness before our God and Father, at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.*

1 Thessalonians 5:23 (ESV) *Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

- This confidence is because of one's *abiding* relationship with God the Father through the Son.

Those Who Shrink Away

- Those who do not *abide* in Him will shrink away at His coming.

Matthew 24:30 (ESV) *Then will appear in heaven the sign of the Son of Man, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.*

2 Thessalonians 1:7–9 (ESV) *and to grant relief to you who are afflicted as well as to us, when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with his mighty angels 8 in flaming fire, inflicting vengeance on those who do not know God and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. 9 They will suffer the punishment of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of his might,*

The Realization vs. 2:29

1 John 2:29 (ESV) *If you know that he is righteous, you may be sure that everyone who practices righteousness has been born of him.*

- This is connected with the concept of abiding as one's lifestyle, which is consistent with what John stated earlier in **2:6**.
 - John is saying that *if you know (oida) [cognitively] that He is righteous, you also "may be sure" know (ginosko) [be assured, experience] that those who practice righteousness are "born of Him."*
 - **Belonging to God allows us to live for that which is greater than ourselves and this world.**
- The idea of spiritual birth, or rebirth, is a common spiritual concept.

John 1:12-13 (ESV) *But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, 13 who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.*

John 3:3-7 (ESV) *Jesus answered him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God." . . . 6 That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. 7 Do not marvel that I said to you, 'You must be born again.'*

- The idea of spiritual birth is a designation of the way in which a believer enters a relationship with God.
- Spiritual birth depends upon a personal relationship with God the Father through God the Son; this is *eternal life*.

1 Peter 1:3 (ESV) *Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,*

- This birth also carries with it specific ethical realities in a life of practicing righteousness.
 - Being born of God, "The Righteous One" produces the "righteous ones."
 - John is saying righteousness is not merely an intention or feeling but is manifested in deed and truth and that the pursuit of righteousness is a confirmation of our relationship with God.
- John says a child exhibits the parents' nature in its conduct. A person's righteousness is the evidence of one's new birth, not a cause or condition of it.
- *It is, therefore, righteousness, not knowledge, that gives evidence that one knows God, abides in Him, and is in fellowship with Him.*

APPLICATION

Live with Certainty in Your Position

- The Christian is, in fact, a child of God. It is not just a figure of speech or concept but is, in fact, an existential essence.

- This status is not a tenuous position. It is sure, secure, and eternal.
- It is the reason for the Christian's assurance; it is due to who you are and to who you are related, not mystical, spiritual experiences.
- The assurance of my salvation rests on who I am, my spiritual birth, and subsequent relational fellowship with God.
- In chaotic, confusing, and uncertain times, we can be secure in the reality of our authentic, real-time, and personal relationship with God.

Psalm 91:1 (ESV) *He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will abide in the shadow of the Almighty. . . . 14 "Because he holds fast to me in love, I will deliver him; I will protect him, because he knows my name. 15 When he calls to me, I will answer him; I will be with him in trouble; I will rescue him and honor him.*

Live with Certainty in Your Future

- By virtue of your fellowship position with God and the evidence of your pursuit of righteousness, you can be confident you will be identified with Jesus Christ and revealed as one of God's children when Christ returns.
- Our assured future is to motivate us to live our lives on earth with great devotion to God.

1 Thessalonians 4:16-18 For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trumpet of God; and the dead in Christ shall rise first. 17 Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and thus we shall always be with the Lord. 18 Therefore comfort one another with these words.


Revelation 21:1-5 (ESV) *Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. 2 And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. 3 And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. 4 He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away." 5 And he who was seated on the throne said, "Behold, I am making all things new." Also he said, "Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true."*

Last Slide: *Living in Discernment and Certainty in an Uncertain World requires living with an eternal perspective and hope found in Jesus' return.*

ⁱBauer, Walter, Gingrich, F. Wilbur, and Danker, Frederick W., *A Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament and Other Early Christian Literature*, (Chicago: University of Chicago Press) 1979.

ⁱⁱKittel, Gerhard, and Friedrich, Gerhard, Editors, *The Theological Dictionary of the New Testament, Abridged in One Volume*, (Grand Rapids, Michigan: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company) 1985.


ⁱⁱⁱLouw, Johannes P. and Nida, Eugene A., *Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament based on Semantic Domains*, (New York: United Bible Societies) 1988, 1989.



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1 JOHN


*LIVING IN DISCERNMENT AND CERTAINTY IN
AN UNCERTAIN WORLD*

1

INTRODUCTION 

*Biblical hope is a desired expectancy of a guaranteed future reality,
secured in God, with an eternal duration.*

MESSAGE THEME: *Live with an eternal perspective and hope found in
Jesus' return.*



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REVIEW

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John demonstrates the evidence of one who is in fellowship with God, or *in the light*.

1. *Pursue living righteous and obedient to God,*
 2. *Pursue living in God's love toward others,*
 3. *Live with a fidelity to the person and truth of Jesus Christ.*
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When He Appears . . .



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