



Good reminders help us stay focused on what matters most and help motivate us to stay on track for success. In every endeavor, life's most successful people rely on a steady stream of motivational reminders. Such reminders play a huge role in making them the success they've become. The same applies to our relationship with Jesus. A close connection with the Lord is what matters most in life. For the Christian, the success of each new day is ultimately measured by how motivated we are to stay in stride with our Savior. It's about experiencing a bond with Him that is strong, happy, fulfilling, adventuresome and healthy. And yet, it is way too easy to let our walk with Jesus become stale or stagnant; even sidelined. To prevent this from happening, **1 John 2:28-3.3** gives us seven really important reason to stay motivated and to keep growing closer to Christ. The Apostle John calls this **abiding in Christ**.

WHAT IS MEANS TO "ABIDE IN CHRIST"

(1 John 2:28a)

"abide" + μένω = _____

WHY IT MATTERS THAT WE "ABIDE IN CHRIST"

1. (2:28) Because Jesus is ...
2. (2:28) Because you want to be ...
3. (2:29) Because Jesus' right way of living ...

4. (3.1) Because God the Father ...
5. (3:1a) Because what this world offers you is showing you that ...
6. (3:2) Because God's ultimate eternal plan for you is ...
7. (3:3) Because the hope you have from Jesus for tomorrow is the ...

TODAY'S TAKEAWAYS

1. Get closer to Christ by focusing on ...
2. Get closer to Christ by focusing on ...
3. Get closer to Christ by focusing on ...

1 Peter 3:15 - *Worship Christ as Lord of your life. And when you are asked about your Christian hope, always be ready to explain it.*

FOR THOUGHT AND TALK

In your small group take 5-10 minutes to review the main points of Pastor John's message. Discuss the following questions, taking your time as the Spirit leads, realizing you don't have to cover them all.

1. Read aloud **1 John 2:28-3:3** in two different translations. What does it mean to abide in Christ? PJ said that abiding in Christ is the happiest and safest place a Christian can be. Do you believe that? If so, why?
2. On a personal level, why do you want to abide in Jesus? What are the blessings you've experienced as you have abided in Him? How can you help others desire to abide in Christ also?
3. What went through your mind when you heard that Jesus is coming to get us? What will enable us to meet Christ with confidence when He comes for us? What would cause us to be embarrassed when He comes for us? Are you ready for Him to come for you?
4. Be really clear on this: What is the difference between the way the world uses the term "hope" and the way the Bible uses it? How would you explain the hope that Jesus has given you and the difference it has made in your life?