

1 John 2:28 - 3:3

Announcements:

- Graduation Sunday (Pastor Tim leading this portion (under 5 minutes)...))
- Church in the park - **June 14th** (evangelistic - people open :) - **family hang** afterwards!
- New Servant Lunch - **Today!** - (2nd/3rd) + youth interest (youth room) - **pray for camp**

Please open to **1 John Chapter 2** (need a Bible? ...near you!)

- Last time: **Antichrists, Anointing, and Abiding** - Must be clear, **Jesus is the Christ!**
- This time: **V. 28 - "And now."** - **Not only is He the Christ, He's RETURNING AGAIN!**
 - Too many people live **as if the present is all there is...** (*living with blinders on...*)
 - *But not the church*, we *live in an eager anticipation* that **fuels how we live now...**

Message Title: **Abiding in Anticipation**

- **What We Must Do** (verses 28-29)
- **What We Are** (verse 1)
- **What We Shall Be** (verse 2)
- **What We Should Be** (verse 3)

Attitudes and activities while waiting matter...

- Some waiting is exciting - A child checking the window because **grandparents** are coming.
- Some... is exhausting and stressful - Cleaning the house frantically before **in-laws** arrive.

A bride leading up to her wedding. **Not passive; Single focused!** Preparation & adorning...

- ...especially as the event moves closer in proximity!
- As Christ's return approaches, John calls the church to that type of waiting. Oil in lamps.
- A waiting that shapes everything. He calls it **abiding!**

Read Verses 28-29

- **PRAY**

What We Must Do (verses 28-29)

Side note: These **two verses are a hinge section** in the letter of John (*between vs. 28 & 29*)

- The word **"abide"** has run all the way through chapter 2... (*almost a dozen times*)
- And now the word **"born"** takes over, introducing the **theme of being God's children.**

V. 28 - *And now, little children*

- **Little children** - **Endearing family language** from the aged apostle to the beloved church.
 - Pastoral affection. Our faith is not merely legal standing, it's **family belonging!**

V. 28 - **Abide in Him**

- To **abide** is **not to achieve, strive, or put on a shiny performance...** it is simply to Remain!
 - Often deeply ordinary: *prayer, scripture, worship, fellowship, communion, etc*
 - **Abiding** doesn't bail out at the first difficulty... or drift with the cultural current...
- **Rooted! Anchored! Settled!** This is **What We Must Do!** Don't compromise, Remain steadfast

- **In Him** = **Stick with the true Jesus** as taught **by the Apostle's Doctrine**. (*false Gnostic error!*)

V. 28 - That **when He appears**

- **Appears (phaneroo)** - "to be made visible or plainly recognized; manifested; **unveiling!**"
 - This word appears **four times in these six verses**. (*Epiphaneia; Apokalypsis*)
- **Christ's Appearing (2nd advent)** is the **blessed hope of the church!**
 - **The Apostles. The early church fathers, the church throughout the ages...**
 - Don't follow the **heresies of deconstructionism**... (*Jesus warns in Matt 24:23-27*)
- Christ is *not just a mere historical figure*... He's *not lying in a tomb in defeat somewhere*.
- Christ is **now seated in glory at the Father's right hand**; though the **world doesn't see Him**.
- But there's **coming a moment when He will be unveiled** and **every eye will see Him**.
- **When... Unexpected! Like a thief in the night!**
 - The **fact that his timing is not announced** creates a **continual urgency!**
 - Ever had a **visitor show up unannounced** and you weren't ready?
 - *Stuff everywhere... Dishes in the sink, smelly socks, wearing wrinkly PJ's...*
 - You felt **self-conscious because you weren't presentable...** (*wish I had known!*)
- **Who is coming determines how** ready you plan to be (**Uncle Eddy or a President**)
- **Coming/Appearing (parousia)** - "**presence, arrival, advent; future visible return of Christ**"
 - In the ancient world... **the arrival of a dignitary/king**.
 - The **city prepared**: *streets cleared, best clothes out* (picture **Palm Sunday** vibes!)
 - **Reverence & excitement! Splendour & honor!** (*all other activities on pause!*)

Every person in history is moving toward **an appointment with the revealed Christ** **Two responses:**

V. 28 - We may have **confidence and not be ashamed** before Him at His coming.

- There's **a clever play on words** here...
- **Confidence (parresia)** = "*speaking freely; cheerful courage; openness; without concealment; without ambiguity* (note: **parresia at the parousia!**) (day of judgment (4:17) + prayer (5:14)
 - **Openness of a child running into his father's arms!** (opposite of **flinch, cringe**)
 - **Confidence is the fruit of abiding!** **Not dreading his return, but longing for it!**
- But then there is **a sad reality** for those **not abiding** in Christ. **Ashamed. Shrinking back.**
- **Two ways of looking at it: judgment or rewards?**
- **There is a reality of everlasting judgment & shame** for the **one who rejects Christ...**
 - **Mark 8:38** - "*For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him the Son of Man also will be ashamed when He comes in the glory of His Father with the holy angels.*"
 - Could be **dealing with the same kind of shame**, living **worldly unfruitful lives...**
- **But there's also a sense** in which **John is addressing the believing church** (**little children**)
- **1 Cor. 3:13-15** - "*...each one's work will become clear; for the Day will declare it, because it will be revealed by fire; and the fire will test each one's work, of what sort it is. If anyone's work which he has built on it endures, he will receive a reward. If anyone's work is burned, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire.*"
- **Not that Christ would be ashamed** (**Heb 2:11** - "*He is not ashamed to call them brethren*")
 - So, it is not that Christ is ashamed of you, but that **you would be ashamed of yourself**
 - Like **Adam hiding in the garden, in shame**, when **the Lord came looking for him**...
 - **If Christ came today, are you confident? Served Him at all? What would cover/hide?**
 - **Children react differently** to parents coming home **based on what they've been doing**.

- And good news, **Christ came to restore in glory what Adam lost in shame. Eden in Christ!**
- **Abide/Remain** in Him now and have **no fear at His appearing. Well done, good & faithful!**

V. 29 - *If you know that He is righteous, you know that everyone who practices righteousness is born of Him.*

- **Greek conditional: "If"** is better translated as **"since"** - we know that **Christ is fully righteous!**
- **Big hinge words** of the whole letter: **Born of Him.** You **must be born again! (John 3)**
 - You **can't abide in Christ** until you are **first born of Christ. (regeneration!)**
 - **A new nature** is given that begins to **bear righteous fruit in your life!**
 - Those **born of Him** will begin to **practice righteousness** because **He is righteous!**
- **Family resemblance.** *Walk, signature sneeze (war cry), laugh, hairline, nose/ears, speech, etc*
- **Practices** is in the **present tense** and is **not a single act** but the **settled course of a life.**
 - John is **not describing sinless perfectionism**; he's **describing one's direction.**
 - And it's **not a striving in self confidence**, but **rooted in relationship (sanctification!)**
 - And that is **evidence of** the **family belonging... (covenant faithfulness (Tzedakah))**
- **Christ's righteousness in us.** is the **root**, our **practicing of His righteousness**, is the **fruit!**

Whether **we go to Him**, or **He comes for us**, we **abide in Him... and turn to no other...**

- That's **What We Must Do**. And **it's made clear** because of **What We Are...**

What We Are (verse 1)

V. 1 - **Behold**

- John breaks out in **wonder! Selah! Not casual theology, but astonished worship!**

V. 1 - **What manner of love** the Father has bestowed on us, **(potatoes!)**

- **What Manner (potapos)** - "from what country, nation, or tribe; of what sort or quality"
 - **In a Greek seaport** - when a ship appeared on the horizon, *people asked this!*
 - *Mark 13:1 - "...teacher, see what manner of stones and what buildings are here!"*
- **John asks this when considering** the **great Agape love of God! (of heavenly origin!)**
 - *Eph 3:17-19. CSB - "I pray that you, being rooted and firmly established in love, may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the length and width, height and depth of God's love, and to know Christ's love that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God."*
 - **Uncommon, not from around here, foreign** type of **love! (not the world's love...)**
- **Bestowed upon** = is in the **perfect tense** - a **completed action with ongoing results**
 - God has **already poured heavenly love on us, in Christ! For God so loved the world...**
- **NIV** renders it **"lavished."** *Not love measured in teaspoons... poured like a torrential river!*

The **evidence of this lavish love...**

V. 1 - **That we should be called children of God!**

- **To be clear:** the whole world does not obtain this privileged standing...
- *John 1:12. ESV - "...to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God."*
- This is **What We Are. Who we are!** (a **royal billionaire adopting a child from the slums!**)
 - **What grace!** When I think about all the **dumpster diving** of scraps, shameful depths...

- **What love!** *It would be enough to save someone, but to bring them into your home!*
- **Identity proclaimed!** *No matter what anyone else says...*
- **“And so we are”** - Stated as **matter of fact!** (*not probationary, not temporary, not earning*)

V. 1 - Therefore the **world does not know us**, because it did not know Him.

- **John 1:10, CSB** - “He was in the world, and the world was created through him, and yet the world did not recognize him.” (not only did the world ignore Him, **but even worse...**)
 - **Jesus was:** despised, rejected, mocked, beaten, ridiculed, falsely accused, hated...
 - **He said the same would happen to us...**
 - We are **not of this world** anymore. **A new creature! A new citizenship! (aliens!)**
- Believers mistakenly can **respond to cultural pressures** in **two ways**:
- Some **PANIC** and **compromise the message** to win back a seat at the table (*for validation*)
- Others grow **BITTER**, treating the **world as a doomed enemy** *Christ never treated it like.*
- **But John’s point** is *less about the world, and more about you, the church (us) (Ekklesia!)*
- The **world’s failure to recognize you, or hostility towards you...** **means you belong to Christ.**
 - **...wear it like a family resemblance!** *Because it’s only for a time...*

What We Shall Be (verse 2)

V. 2 - Beloved (**agapetos!**), **now we are** children of God

- *Restated what we’ve already heard* but now **contrasting with what’s next** (*...more coming!*)

V. 2 - And it has **not yet been revealed what we shall be**

- This is the **already and not yet** reality of our faith! (**road trip:** *are we there yet...? ha!*)
 - Parents may not **explain every highway**, but they **assure them of the destination!**
 - It’s going to be **next level mind blowing!!!**
 - **Who can imagine the glories? No more pain/tears!**
- **Romans 8:18-19** - “For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us. For the earnest expectation of the creation **eagerly waits for the revealing of the sons of God.**” (*curious revelation, ahead!*)

V. 2 - But we know that **when He is revealed** - *Many things unknown*, but **two known stated here:**

- V. 2 - We shall **be like Him** = The answer to **What We Shall Be.** (*doctrine of glorification!*)
 - **Conformed to His image** (**no longer marred**), **glorified bodies, perfected character.**
 - The **long, slow uphill work of sanctification** will be **completed in an instant.**
 - “...in the twinkling of an eye, we shall all be changed!” (1 Cor. 15:52)
- V. 2 - For we shall **see Him as He is.** - **no longer walking by faith... but by sight!**
 - **1 Cor. 13:12** - “For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part, but then I shall know just as I also am known...”
 - **Ancient polished bronze** (*unclear / distorted*), **color blind glasses, crying!**
 - **To see God face to face!** *Who can imagine the day!? What glory! What anticipation!*
 - **Rev. 22:1-5** - “And he showed me a pure river of the water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding from the throne of God and of the Lamb. In the middle of its street, and on either side of the river, was the tree of life, which bore twelve fruits, each tree yielding its fruit every month. The leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations. And there shall be no more curse, but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it, and His

servants shall serve Him. **They shall see His face**, and His name shall be on their foreheads. There shall be no night there: They need no lamp nor light of the sun, for the Lord God gives them light. And they shall reign forever and ever...”

- **This is what makes heaven, heaven**: *Not the gold streets, not even reunion with loved ones... precious as that is.* What makes heaven, HEAVEN, is that **Jesus is there**. (**all consuming!**)
 - We shall **see Him** and **be like Him!**

Many believers have lost the ache for Christ's return.

- **“Maranatha: Come, Lord Jesus, come!”** was the **heartbeat of the early church**. **Cultivate!**
- If **anticipation has grown cold**, it's because **we've made too much of a home** here...

And finally, **in light of all this**, here's the **closing exhortation** to the church...

What We Should Be (verse 3)

V. 3 - And **everyone who has this hope in Him**

- Notice the first word: **“and” (kai)**. This verse is **connected at the hip** to the one before it...
 - Because *we shall see Him and be like Him*, we **should** live **a certain way, until then**.
- **Everyone** - **all of God's children** (no exceptions...)
- **This hope** - **not a wishy washy feeling** (*I hope I get a nap today...*) but a **secure expectation!**
- **Not in government/mankind**, but **In Him**. Our hope is in **the rock of ages!** (*all other ground...*)

And because of that...

V. 3 - **Purifies himself, just as He is pure.** (**Pura vida!** (“the pure life”))

- 2 Cor 11:2-4, NLT - “For I am jealous for you with the jealousy of God himself. I promised [betrothed] you as **a pure bride [virgin] to one husband**—Christ. But I fear that somehow your **pure and undivided devotion** to Christ will be corrupted, just as Eve was deceived by the cunning ways of the serpent. You happily put up with whatever anyone tells you, even if they preach a different Jesus than the one we preach...” (**core issue is theological...**)
- (also, **practical**) ...too many today want the **glory of verse 2 WITHOUT the purity of verse 3**.
- **Purifies (Hagnizo)** = “to make clean; figuratively, ceremonially, or morally...”
 - Cleansing from **defilement / impurities...** (**uncleanness from worship/community**)
 - **Temple cleansing imagery** - getting ready for **pure devotion and worship...**
- **Purifies himself = present, active, indicative...**
 - **The believer who genuinely expects Christ's return, pursues purity...**
 - 2 Peter 3:10-14, ESV - “But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a roar... and the earth and the works that are done on it will be exposed. Since all these things are thus to be dissolved, **what sort of people ought you to be in lives of holiness and godliness, waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God**, because of which the heavens will be set on fire and dissolved, and the heavenly bodies will melt as they burn! But according to his promise we are waiting for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells. **Therefore, beloved, since you are waiting for these, be diligent to be found by him without spot or blemish, and at peace.**” - **This is serious perspective!**
 - **Olympic athletes**: Organize their entire lives... **diet, sleep, relationships (that Day!)**
 - **How much more should the appearance of Christ reorder our lives?**

- **Just as He is pure - Christ is our example and equipping!**
- **We're not left to our own ways or strength!**
- How does one *purify themselves*? By **considering Him**; *looking unto Him; author/perfector!*
- **People become like what they behold. Behold Christ, and you become like Christ!**

In v. 29, John said *practicing righteousness* looks **BACKWARD** to being *born in Him*.

Here in v. 3:3, John says that *pure living* looks **FORWARD** to *our blessed hope in Him!*

- V. 29 - He who is *born of Him*, *practices righteousness*, knowing that *He is righteous!*
- V. 3 - He who has *hope in Him*, *purifies themselves*, just as *He is pure!*
- **Two engines driving the church: origin & destination! Evidence & motivation!**

Closing:

The same Jesus who...

- ...walked the roads of Galilee, hung on a Roman cross, walked out of the tomb, and ascended bodily into the clouds. **is coming back (Phaneroo, Epiphaneia; Apokalypsis, Parousia)**
- The angels declared it... The prophets foretold it... The apostles preached it... The Spirit confirmed it... And, the Father has appointed the day... **Marriage Supper of the Lamb awaits!**
- *In the meantime*, we **prepare ourselves like a bride would for her wedding day.**
- **Abiding in Anticipation!** - As *children of God* having received a *lavishing love*, we respond by *practicing righteousness, remaining pure, and eagerly awaiting along with all of creation...*

And **when He appears**, *when the trumpet sounds, and the cloud appears, and the King of glory arrives,*

- ...May He **not find us hiding among the trees like Adam**
- ...but instead **running like a confident child into His Father's arms!**

The wait will be over. Faith will become sight... We shall see Him as He is and be like Him!

- Until then, **beloved... abide in anticipation. Don't drift... Don't bail out... remain...**
- *2 Timothy 4:8, NET* - "Finally the crown of righteousness is reserved for me. The Lord, the righteous Judge, will award it to me in that day—and not to me only, but also **to all who have set their affection on his appearing.**"

PRAY