# 1 John Lesson 15

1 John 2:28-29 - “Confidence at His Coming”

Introduction: Paul is saying it doesn’t matter who tries to convince you of some other truth besides Jesus, even if it’s me. Count them accursed. Stay in truth. Abide there in the truth of what has been revealed in God’s Word. If Jesus is not absolute deity, then Christianity is just one of the religions of the world and nothing more. If Jesus is God as the Son of God as the Bible reveals then it excludes the possibility of anything else. John is stressing the importance of abiding in Jesus on a doctrinal level. Don’t be seduced (turned aside) from doctrinal truth.

Now John is challenging us to abide on a practical level – Where you live on a day to day basis. To abide in Christ means there will be Christlikeness in our daily walk, because a doctrine that does not affect our life is completely worthless. The Bible always takes us to one principle…Believe right, Live right!

**I. We are to abide in Him constantly.**

 A. On a Doctrinal Level.

 1. If you are saved and a child of God then you have no choice but to abide in Him positionally. a. You have no choice.

 b. You are in Christ and nothing can change that.

 c. That is your position doctrinally.

 2. There is no condemnation to them that are in Christ Jesus. Romans 8:1, 38

 a. If you are in Jesus Christ then it impossible for you to experience the condemnation outside of Jesus Christ.

 b. You cannot be outside of Christ if you are in Christ.

 3. Once you are saved, you are always saved.

 a. My Father has His sheep in His hands and no man can pluck them out of my Father’s hands. John 10:29

 b. Our life is hid in Christ by God. You are HIS!!

 c. You can’t NOT be His!!

 4. When you embraced the truth of Jesus and got saved you only sealed your position is in Jesus Christ.

 a. Does not mean you live every day in favor of God.

 b. Does not mean you live every day in obedience to God.

 c. Does not mean you live every day with approval from God.

 d. Does not mean you live every day with perfect fellowship of God.

 5. Though we are saved and know Jesus as our Savior, we also sin.

a. Though we know we are His on the authority God‘s Word, there are times when we are out of fellowship with Him.

 b. There are times when we do not meet approval.

Robert Robinson: Robert Robinson was just a small boy when his dad died. In 18th century England, there was little in the way of a social welfare system and this meant that he had to go to work while still very young. Without a father to guide and steady him, he fell in with bad companions.

One day his gang of rowdies harassed a drunken gypsy. Pouring liquor into her, they demanded she tell their fortunes for free. Pointing her finger at Robert she told him he would live to see his children and grandchildren. This struck a tender spot in his heart. "If I'm going to live to see my children and grandchildren," he thought, "I'll have to change my way of living. I can't keep on like I'm going now."

He decided to go hear the Methodist preacher George Whitefield. To cover his "weak" urge, he suggested that the boys go with him and heckle the gathering. Whitefield preached on the text: "O generation of vipers, who hath warned you to flee from the wrath to come?" (Matthew 3:7). Robert left in dread, under a deep sense of sin that lasted for three years. Finally, at the age of twenty, he made peace with God and immediately set out to become a Methodist preacher himself. Two years later, in 1757, he wrote a hymn which expressed his joy in his new faith:

Come, Thou Fount of every blessing,
Tune my heart to sing Thy grace Streams of mercy, never ceasing,
Call for songs of loudest praise.

Teach me some melodious sonnet, Sung by flaming tongues above.
Praise the mount! I'm fixed upon it, Mount of Thy redeeming love.

Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it, **Prone to leave the God I love**

**Take my heart, O take and seal it Seal it for thy courts above.**

The reality of which Robinson spoke of in the third stanza of “Prone to wander,” tragically came true when he lapsed into a lifestyle of sin and even turning to Unitarianism.  It was during this time that the story is told of Robinson entering a stagecoach with a lady joyously humming one of her favorite hymns.  Turning to him, she asked if he knew the hymn that had ministered to her so much.  Robinson replied:

“Madam, I am the poor unhappy man who wrote that hymn many years ago, and I would give a thousand worlds, if I had them, to enjoy the feelings I had then.”

B. On the practical level.

 1. John is giving us the motivation for this level.

 a. Be is His favor.

 b. Be in fellowship with Him.

 c. Be in the realm of His approval.

 d. Know His blessings.

 2. He always loves you, but you do not always live mindful of His love.

 a. We recognize the above things on a regular basis.

 b. John is saying to abide there, live knowing those things.

 3. John was living with an awareness that Jesus was coming again.

 a. There are 260 chapters in the NT and there 318 references to the fact that Jesus will come again.

 b. 1 in 25 verses tell us of the return of our Lord Jesus.

 c. No one can read the Bible and not be aware of this fact.

 4. That Jesus will come again is a settled matter in God’s Word.

**II. Jesus Coming will invoke Two Responses opposite in character.**

 A. Confidence

 1. This is an assurance in the face of a reality.

 a. Nothing to do with arrogance.

 b. Nothing about being cocky.

 2. The reality is that Jesus Christ is coming again.

 a. When an individual is abiding in Jesus, he will respond with confidence.

 b. With assurance and courage.

 3. This elicits different responses from different people, like in our lives.

a. When a policeman or emergency response member comes to a crime or accident victims or those injured are relieved.

b. We can have a joyous response to Christ’s coming if we are doing His will.

 4. John is not asking if Jesus is coming, he is asking what will be your response to Him when He comes.

 5. Paul had this confidence, because he was ready for the Savior.

 a. He was abiding in Him.

 1) He was obedient, and in fellowship. 2 Timothy 4:7

 2) He knew God’s favor and knew God’s blessings.

 3) He had met God’s approval.

 b. Paul had been living the Word of God.

 1) He was walking in the Word

 2) He had not just been preaching the Word

 c. He had confidence when he thought of Jesus return, because He was ready and expected a reward.

2 Timothy 4:8

 B. Ashamed

 1. Definitions of being ashamed.

 a. To shrink back as if to try and disappear

 b. To sense guilt and disgrace

 c. To feel embarrassed

 2. There are people who will be ashamed because of His coming.

a. When criminals see the police lights and hear their sirens their hearts filled with fear.

b. who have sat and heard numerous messages

 c. who have heard choir numbers and special music

 d. who have been involved in all kinds of outreach

 e. But too busy sleeping in church, counting ceiling panels

 f. But too busy taking trips on the weekend

 g. But too busy working overtime for more money

 h. People who are not without reason to believe He is coming

 C. What you do know

1. There is evidence of the New Birth in an individual if they are living in a manner that makes them confident and not ashamed when Jesus appears.

a. You can know that you are born again (have assurance) if your life is characterized by a lifestyle that would bring confidence at the thought of His coming.

 b. When He returns would there be shame.

 c. If you are confident in His return why do you doubt your salvation?

d. If you are not abiding in Him on a practical level and could only be ashamed at His return, what assurance do you have that you are saved

 2. The assurance that is given is His righteousness that is manifest in our life.

 a. His life comes to us and His characteristics are made manifest in us.

 b. Like the branch producing what is the vine to produce

Conclusion: There are some that if Jesus were to come today it would be a fearful and dreadful thing to them. Today? What am I investing in, what am I involved in… today? Is my heart walking in His will? Am I concerned about lost souls? Do I long for His Word? Do I spend enough time with my wife? Do I make time for my husband?