

## Having Confidence at Christ's Coming

**1 John 2:28-29 HCSB** So now, little children, remain in Him, so that when He appears we may have boldness and not be ashamed before Him at His coming. (29) If you know that He is righteous, you know this as well: everyone who does what is right has been born of Him.

### Introduction



The time is coming when we shall have to stand before the judgment seat of Christ. God has ordained Christ to be the judge of the world.

- **John 5:22 HCSB** The Father, in fact, judges no one but has given all judgment to the Son,
- **John 5:26-27 HCSB** For just as the Father has life in Himself, so also He has granted to the Son to have life in Himself. (27) And He has granted Him the right to pass judgment, because He is the Son of Man.
- **Acts 17:30-31 HCSB** "Therefore, having overlooked the times of ignorance, God now commands all people everywhere to repent, (31) because He has set a day on which He is going to judge the world in righteousness by the Man He has appointed. He has provided proof of this to everyone by raising Him from the dead."

Therefore we must all appear before Christ

- **2 Corinthians 5:10 HCSB** For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each may be repaid for what he has done in the body, whether good or bad.

Many people, if they think of the Day of Judgment at all, do so with great apprehension. For some, it is probably for good reason they fear that Day, for they know their lives are not right with God. But there are some who fear the coming of that Day, who really shouldn't, but can look forward to that day knowing they will stand before Him with great boldness!

Indeed, John wrote his first epistle with the desire to help his readers understand that they can have confidence before the Lord when He comes...

- **1 John 2:28 HCSB** So now, little children, remain in Him, so that when He appears we may have boldness and not be ashamed before Him at His coming.

I would like for us to take a close look at

- a. John's goal for his "little children"
- b. John's solution for obtaining this goal

We begin, then, by determining...

### I. John's goal for his "little children"

#### A. To have confidence when Christ appears...

The word for "confidence" is parrhesia, {par-rhay-see'-ah}. It means "all out-spokenness, i.e. frankness, bluntness, publicity; by implication assurance: bold, confidence". It is used elsewhere to describe the boldness of Peter and John before the council –

- **Acts 4:13 HCSB** When they observed the boldness of Peter and John and realized that they were uneducated and untrained men, they were amazed and knew that they had been with Jesus.

It is used to describe the boldness of Paul's preaching –

- [Acts 9:27 HCSB](#) Barnabas, however, took him and brought him to the apostles and explained to them how, on the road, Saul had seen the Lord, and that He had talked to him, and how in Damascus he had spoken boldly in the name of Jesus.

Even now, in Christ we can have "...boldness and access with confidence" to God –

- [Ephesians 3:12 HCSB](#) in whom we have boldness, access, and confidence through faith in Him.

We can have bold access to the throne of God for mercy and grace to help –

- [Hebrews 4:14-16 HCSB](#) Therefore since we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens--Jesus the Son of God--let us hold fast to the confession. (15) For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but One who has been tested in every way as we are, yet without sin. (16) Therefore let us approach the throne of grace with boldness, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us at the proper time.

Therefore it is John's goal that we have the same sort of "boldness" and "confidence" at Christ's appearing that we have now! Just as we can now boldly approach God's throne of grace so we can then stand with confidence before Christ's throne of judgment!

### **B. To not be ashamed when He comes...**

The word here is *aischunomai* {ahee-skhoo'-nom-ahee} which is from *aischos* (disfigurement, i.e. disgrace); to feel shame (for oneself):--be ashamed. It is used to describe the unjust steward's attitude toward begging –

- [Luke 16:3 HCSB](#) "Then the manager said to himself, 'What should I do, since my master is taking the management away from me? I'm not strong enough to dig; I'm ashamed to beg.'

To be "ashamed", then, is the opposite of having "boldness" and "confidence". John does not want us to be ashamed of ourselves when Christ comes again! To stand before Jesus at His coming, with confidence and no shame, that is John's goal for his "little children"! Is that not the goal for ourselves as well? How can we be sure that will be true of us? Consider...

## **II. John's solution for obtaining this goal: "Abide in Him"**

Here is the key to having "confidence" at Christ's appearing. This is the answer if we do not want to be "ashamed" at His coming. But how does one "abide in Christ"?

Abiding in Christ involves letting His Word abide in us. As John stated earlier –

- [1 John 2:24 HCSB](#) What you have heard from the beginning must remain in you. If what you have heard from the beginning remains in you, then you will remain in the Son and in the Father.

And as explained by Jesus Himself –

- [John 14:21 HCSB](#) The one who has My commands and keeps them is the one who loves Me. And the one who loves Me will be loved by My Father. I also will love him and will reveal Myself to him."
- [John 14:23 HCSB](#) Jesus answered, "If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word. My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him.
- [John 15:10 HCSB](#) If you keep My commands you will remain in My love, just as I have kept My Father's commands and remain in His love.

Letting His Word abide in us therefore involves two important concepts:

- a. That we "know" His Word
- b. That we "keep" His Word

**Know His Word.** The lack of confidence many Christians have is the result of not "knowing" the words of Jesus. It is akin to the apprehension many feel before taking a test. Not having properly studied the material, naturally they don't know it very well. Whereas one who has mastered the material has confidence going into the test.

When brethren do not read and study God's word, the Bible, it is understandable why they would be apprehensive about being judged by it! But the solution to not knowing God's Word, and those of His Son, is a simple one: READ!

**Keep His Word.** It is not enough, though, to "know", we must also "keep" His Word. We must be "doers" of the Word –

- **Matthew 7:21-27 HCSB** "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord!' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but *only* the one who does the will of My Father in heaven. (22) On that day many will say to Me, 'Lord, Lord, didn't we prophesy in Your name, drive out demons in Your name, and do many miracles in Your name?' (23) Then I will announce to them, 'I never knew you! **Depart from Me, you lawbreakers!**' (24) "Therefore, everyone who hears these words of Mine and acts on them will be like a sensible man who built his house on the rock. (25) The rain fell, the rivers rose, and the winds blew and pounded that house. Yet it didn't collapse, because its foundation was on the rock. (26) But everyone who hears these words of Mine and doesn't act on them will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand. (27) The rain fell, the rivers rose, the winds blew and pounded that house, and it collapsed. And its collapse was great!"

Only the one who "practices righteousness" is truly born of God and abiding in Jesus.

- **1 John 2:29 HCSB** If you know that He is righteous, you know this as well: everyone who does what is right has been born of Him.

But if you know what Jesus has actually taught, it is not that "hard" to do what He says!

- **1 John 5:3 HCSB** For this is what love for God is: to keep His commands. Now His commands are not a burden,

Add to this the promise of the cleansing power of Jesus' blood when we sin and we have every reason to have "confidence"!

- **1 John 1:9 HCSB** If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

## Conclusion

The story is told about a conversation between two little boys: One of the boys noticed that the other's grandmother spent a lot of time reading her Bible. "Why does she read the Bible so much?" the boy asked his friend. The other boy replied, "She is cramming for her final exam!"

The more we "know", and the more we "keep" the words of our Lord, the greater our confidence that we shall stand before our Lord on that great Day of Judgment with all boldness!

As John says, "Abide in Him," which we have seen occurs when we follow his earlier admonition:

- **1 John 2:24 HCSB** What you have heard from the beginning must remain in you. If what you have heard from the beginning remains in you, then you will remain in the Son and in the Father.

Are you letting the Word of God abide in you, so that you are truly abiding in the Son and in the Father?