

BIBLE BAPTIST CHURCH OF ERIE
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ARE YOU READY FOR HIS COMING?

Series from 1 John on – Genuine Christianity

1 JOHN 2:28-29

John has now concluded his message on **fellowship** and is about to begin his message on **sonship**. He has explained that a real Christian lives a life of **obedience** (walking in light, not darkness), **love**, and **truth**. It is impossible to live in fellowship with God if you are disobedient or hateful or untruthful. Any of these sins will lead you out of reality and into pretense. You will have an **“artificial”** life instead of an **“authentic”** life.

Now our two Scriptures verses today are a “bridge” from the **fellowship** section into the **sonship** section (“born of God”); in these verses John uses three words that ought to encourage us to live in fellowship with the Father, the Son, and the Spirit. They are **ABIDE**, **APPEAR** and **ASHAMED**.

The winter Olympics is coming next month in China. However, A much bigger event than the Olympics is coming, and you will be enrolled as a participant. That event is the second coming of Jesus Christ in power and glory. It will be the most amazing event ever to shake the entire world. Listen to how Jesus described it (**Luke 21:25-28** read). The question is, **“Are you ready for the big event?”** Jesus concluded His Olivet Discourse with these warnings to the disciples (**Mark 13:33-37** read). **In our text (2:28-29), John tells us how to be ready for the big event of all history: To be ready for Christ’s coming, abide in Him as little children.**

John makes three simple, but important, points:

I. JESUS IS COMING AGAIN

“When He appears” the uncertainty is *not* about the **fact** of His coming, but rather about the **time** of it. Jesus repeatedly mentioned His own return. On the night before His crucifixion, He promised the anxious disciples (**John 14:1-3**). When the disciples watched the risen Jesus ascend bodily into heaven, two angels appeared and said that Jesus would return bodily to earth (**Acts 1:11**). Jesus Christ is coming back bodily as the conquering Judge and King.

II. WHEN CHRIST COMES, SOME WILL BE READY, OTHERS WILL NOT BE READY

John indicates that there are two possibilities when Jesus Christ comes: either you will have confidence, or you will **“shrink away from Him in shame.”** **“Confidence”** when He comes means, **“courage, confidence, boldness, fearlessness, especially in the presence of persons of high rank”** The word used for **“coming” (2:28)** was used of the visit of a king or emperor. If you’ve ever had to go before a high-ranking official, you’ve probably felt a bit nervous.

*****TO BE READY FOR CHRIST’S COMING,
YOU MUST ABIDE IN HIM AS A LITTLE CHILD.**

III. TO BE READY FOR CHRIST’S COMING, YOU MUST ABIDE IN HIM AS A LITTLE CHILD

The command is simple:

A. Abide in Him.

“Abide” is one of John’s favorite words. He uses it more than all other New Testament writers combined - 24 times in 1 John. The fact that we are commanded to abide in Him implies persistent and purposeful action on our part. Note five things about what it means to abide in Him:

- (1). To abide in Him, you must be in Him.**
- (2). To abide in Him is both passive and active at the same time.**
- (3). To abide in Him means to live righteously.**
- (4). To abide in Him means to hold firmly to the truth of the Word, especially to the truth of the gospel.**
- (5). To abide in Him means to be at home with Him and to be an alien to this world.**

To abide in Him means that you are at home with Him and He is at home with you. You feel increasingly like an alien or foreigner to this evil world: **“For this reason the world does not know us, because it did not know Him” (3:1).**

Much more could be said, but notice, also, how John again addresses his flock as “little children.” The implication is:

B. Abide in Him as His little child.

suggest at least four simple truths:

- (1). As a little child, do not over-complicate the Christian life.**
- (2). As a little child, depend on your Father for everything.**
- (3). As a little child, do not think more highly of yourself than you ought to think.**
- (4). As a little child, revel in the Father’s great love for you.**

So, are you ready for the biggest, most amazing event in world history—the return of Jesus Christ? The answer to that question depends on your answer to another question: Are you abiding in Him as a little child?