

Will I feel ashamed – or confident – when I see Jesus?

*“And NOW, little children, abide in Him; that, when He shall appear, we may have confidence, and not be ashamed before Him at His coming” (1 John 2:28)*

Note that this verse was written by John, the “*beloved apostle of Jesus Christ,*” who wrote the Gospel of John, 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup>, John, and the concluding book of the Bible -- Revelation. which was given by Christ Himself, the wonderful vision of things to come. He states, “*NOW, little children . . .*” John, inspired by the Holy Spirit, is not referring to natural children, but children of God. That means all of us who are born-again and become a child of God. – (We are “*little children*” compared to our Elder Brother, Jesus Christ.) We are “*little children*” for we have plenty of room for growth.

John is pleading with every one of us, saved children of God, to ***abide in Him*** (in Christ Jesus). He is beseeching us to live in Christ’s revealed will, don’t live out of His will, or you will not have confidence when Jesus comes in that day when we meet Him in the air and stand before Him at the Judgment Seat of Christ.

John implores us, as children of God, to use the ***NOW*** of our present life to abide in the revealed will of God. Jesus taught the same thing and John recorded it in the 15<sup>th</sup> chapter of His Gospel – because abiding in Christ is necessary to fruitfulness, and it is fruitfulness glorifies our Father which is in Heaven.

*Jesus said, “I am the true vine, and my Father is the husbandman. Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away: and every branch that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit. Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you. Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me. I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing...Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples” (John 15:1-5 & 8).*

Possibly the greatest thing a child of God can do is to bear fruit – the fruit of the Spirit. Unfortunately, some Christians are like a Christmas tree and not a fruit tree. A Christmas tree is a tree that you just hang things on and put some kind of protection around it with a sign “*Don’t touch, Hands off.*” But a fruit tree grows fruit to be eaten by others with a sign on it, “*Taste and see.*”

You never saw a fruit tree consume its own fruit or grew its fruit for itself. Satan does not want us to bear Christian fruit, because it is this fruit, that sinners can taste and see, causing them to leave his kingdom of darkness and come over to the Kingdom of God’s light.

Another thing that “*Abiding in Christ*” does for us is that it prepares us for the coming of Our Lord and Master, Who could come at any day or moment. This is something every child of God needs today. We need to seriously ask our self, “*Am I*

**NOW** *abiding in Him?*” This does not mean when we get to heaven, or in some new age to come, but **NOW**, in this present life.

Then John gives the reason why “*Abiding in Him*” is so necessary. He writes, “*That when He shall appear, we may have confidence.*” He is referring to the time when our Lord will return. John is reminding us of the event when Christ “*will appear for those that look for Him, and shall see Him - when the dead in Christ will rise.*” John speaks of something every child of God will want -- **CONFIDENCE!** John is speaking of a class of people in whom he includes himself.

Whenever a writer of the New Testament uses the words, “*we,*” or, “*us,*” he is including himself among the people he is speaking to or about. John was not making any demands on “*little children*” that he himself would not have to meet. There is not one Gospel for people and another one for ministers, but rather God’s Word is for every one!

John is saying that if “*we*” expect to have confidence when we meet the Lord in the air, and not be ashamed when we stand before Him at the Judgment Seat of Christ, we must “*abide in Him*” – “*faithfully do God’s will!*”

John is not referring to Christians who’s aim in their Christian living are “*just to go to heaven*” -- just to get inside the door -- or, as Paul wrote in 1 Corinthians 3:13-15 -- “*saved as by fire,*” but, John is proclaiming that we need to be able to look into Jesus Christ’s face (and He into ours), without being ashamed about our doing His will -- and what we did about it in this present life.

The Weymouth translations renders this verse, “*And now, dear children, Abide in Him, so that if He appears we may have confidence and not shrink away in shame from Him at His coming.*”

John taught that Christians will be at the Judgment Seat of Christ who will be ashamed of what they have done with the *will of God*, and of how they have lived to please themselves. They will be ashamed of having been unfaithful servant, as stewards of the Master, and at the *accounting day*, will shrink away or what to hide from His presence.

John says that **CONFIDENCE** is a treasure  
that every Christian will want in that day.

### What is Confidence?

Where does confidence come from? Where can it be found? I know of no place where it can be bought. Even Sears and Roebuck or Montgomery Ward does not handle it in their catalogs. I know of no factory that is turning out confidence. However, I know a lot of Christians who would like to have a few pounds hidden behind the door, so they could get to it quickly when Christ returns.

Some think that confidence is something like a cloak to throw around your self five minutes before the Rapture takes place, and that if they can just make the Rapture,

that is all they will need! They have the idea that when we meet in the clouds, we are just going to go off to sing and short forever -- to get a harp, a home, and a crown.

However, John says that every Christian will need confidence, and I know of only one place where it can be produced and of only one kind of soil that grows it.

Have you ever had the experience, when you were just a child, of your parents going somewhere and leaving you to do certain chores before they returned? They would make known their will for you while they are away. You didn't have to say, "*I wish I knew what they want me to do?*" because they made it extremely clear.

No one wants you to know God's will more than He does. Jesus said, "*If any one will do His – [the Father's] – will, he will know of His doctrine*" (John 7:17). Many Christians are not presently "doing" what they know to be God's will, yet say they want to know what His will is for the future. Jesus said, "*Do, then you will know.*"

Back to memory of our parents going away for a period of time and telling us what they want us to do. They explain the work that they want you to do. After they have said their "*good-byes*" and gave their parting words, they said that they were not exactly sure what time they would be back.

Oh the joy! Being home with no father and mother around to say, "*What are you doing now?*" "*Don't do that,*" or, "*Get your job done.*" Talk about free to do, as one pleases – Oh yes, no father and mother to tell you what to do. You felt free as a bird.

However, there was one thing troubling you – no matter how far away your parents were, you couldn't get away from the knowledge of your Father's will that had been given so carefully and plainly before they left.

There are those Christians who say, "*If Jesus were only here, I would sit at His feet waiting to do whatever He would ask me do.*" Well, Jesus is here! Like your parents who left you to do the chores, though their bodily presence may not have been with you, they were ever so near in your memory of what they wanted you to do. So Jesus is near in the knowledge of His revealed will, though His bodily presence is not here.

Maybe you were disobedient to your parent's will and put your will and desire above theirs – doing whatever you wanted to do. The day was spent playing games with your friends. Your parents were away, so you "*took your liberty,*" to do whatever you wanted to do.

Some Christians do that! They have accepted Jesus Christ as their Savior and are "*son*" of God,; and they are free, but not to break their Father's will.

Liberty is not license to do as we please!

The Stars and Stripes in our American flag speak of *liberty* for each American, but it also stands for Law and Order, that if we refuse to obey its laws, it can take our life from us -- or put us in prison for life.

Back to our illustration, let's say that the time comes when it is too late to get the jobs done that your parents required of you, you run for home. The funniest feeling come over you from head to toes -- it's a fear from the knowledge of the unfinished will of your parents. You felt okay as long as they were away and you were playing with your friends. You knew what you wanted to do and didn't seem afraid of your father and mother – as long as they were miles away.

We may be aware that we are not pleasing the Lord or living according to His will, however, John says that there is a day coming when some Christians won't have *confidence* to stand in His presence.

When the day was spent playing -- one thing remained -- your parent's *will* was still there -- only *NOW* there was no time to get the chores done! Time had taken wings while you did what you wanted to do.

It is a sad thing for Christians to wake up with the sun ready to set in their lives and to find their day is "*so far spent.*" How many Christians have cried, "*If I could live my life again.*" But the sad reality is that we will never live this life again. There are things that God has tried in every way possible to get us to do in the time of opportunity.

God help us to live our Christian life **NOW!**

There, probably, were times when you looked longingly, eagerly waiting for your parents to return – when you had accomplished their revealed will. But, the times when you had not done their revealed will, you did not look for their return. As soon as you could get out of their presence the better you felt. You did not have *confidence* -- because you had not obeyed their revealed will while they were away.

How different things were when you worked at their revealed will, getting things done and accomplishing what they wanted you to do. Afterward, you may have sat, just watching and waiting for one thing -- the return of your parents. With their arrival, you no doubt climbed into your father lap, thrilled and happy to be in your parents' presence. They would talk about what they had seen and done, and you would tell them about how you accomplished their revealed will. The hour would grow late, but you didn't want to go to bed and leave them.

Confidence had become yours because you had done what they had asked for you while they were away. The moment you finished your parents' will, you received confidence – that is the by-produce of obedience alone. You were ready and longing for their return and would be able to rejoice in their presence!

John states that it will be possible for a true born-again believer, if he is not careful what he does with Christ's revealed will and the plan God has for his life, to some day be *ashamed* before Christ at His coming -- when he appears at the Judgment Seat of Christ.

Or, as Weymouth renders, "*Shrink away in shame from Him at His coming, having regret and remorse on account of unfaithfulness as a servant to his Master's will.*"

There is nothing more important to any person -- (after being saved by the grace of God) -- then to have a personal understanding of the will of God for his life in this present world. What Christ Jesus will be able to give to us in eternity, will depend on our fitting into His will in this present life.

May God help us to "*Live Our Christian life NOW In The light Of Eternity,*" like we will wish we had lived it -- when we stand before Christ at His Judgment Seat.

We will not have the opportunity to come back to this present world to live our Christian life over again.

God help us to have to say at death, "*If I could only live my live over again!*"

Let us live our life NOW in the Light of Eternity, not in the light of just the years we have here on earth.