

# Having Confidence At Christ's Coming

**1 John 2:28-29**

**Study #8**

**(Not entirely original with me)**

## **INTRODUCTION:**

1. The time is coming when we shall have to stand before the judgment seat of Christ...
  - a. God has ordained Christ to be the judge of the world - **Jn 5:22, 26-27; Ac 17:30-31**
  - b. Therefore we must all appear before Christ - **2 Co 5:10**
2. Many people, if they think of the Day of Judgment at all, do so with great apprehension...
  - a. For some, it is probably for good reason they fear that Day, for they know their lives are not right with God
  - b. 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!
3. 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... ***"And now, little children, abide in Him, that when He appears, we may have confidence and not be ashamed before Him at His coming."*** (1 Jn 2:28)

## **I. JOHN'S GOAL FOR HIS "LITTLE CHILDREN"**

### **A. TO HAVE "CONFIDENCE" WHEN CHRIST APPEARS...**

1. The word for "confidence" is **parrhesia**, {par-rhay-see'-ah}
  - a. It means "all outspokenness, i.e. frankness, bluntness, publicity; by impl. assurance: -- bold, confidence"
  - b. It is used elsewhere to describe:
    - 1) The boldness of Peter and John before the council - **Ac 4:13**
    - 2) The boldness of Paul's preaching - **Ac 9:27**
2. Even now, in Christ we can have...
  - a. "...boldness and access with confidence" to God - **Ep 3:12**
  - b. Bold access to the throne of God for mercy and grace to help - **He 4:14-16**
3. Therefore it is John's goal that we have the same sort of "boldness" and "confidence" at Christ's appearing that we have now!
  - a. Just as we can now boldly approach God's throne of grace...
  - b. ...so we can then stand with confidence before Christ's throne of judgment!

### **B. TO NOT BE "ASHAMED" WHEN HE COMES...**

1. The word here is **aischunomai** {ahee-skho'-nom-ahee}
  - a. Which is from **aischos** (disfigurement, i.e. disgrace); to feel shame (for oneself): -- be ashamed
  - b. It is used to describe the unjust steward's attitude toward begging - **Lk 16:3**

2. To be “ashamed”, then, is the opposite of having “boldness” and “confidence”

3. 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?)

## II. JOHN’S SOLUTION FOR OBTAINING THIS GOAL

### A. “ABIDE IN HIM”...

1. Here is the key to having “confidence” at Christ’s appearing

2. This is the answer if we do not want to be “ashamed” at His coming  
-- But how does one “abide in Christ”?

### B. ABIDING IN CHRIST...

1. Involves letting His Word abide in us

a. As John stated earlier - **1 Jn 2:24**

b. And as explained by Jesus Himself - **Jn 14:21,23; 15:10**

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

a. That we **know** His Word

b. That we **keep** His Word

3. I am persuaded that the lack of confidence many Christians have is the result of not knowing the words of Jesus...

a. It is akin to the apprehension many feel before taking a test

1) Not having properly studied the material, naturally they don’t know it very well

2) Whereas one who has mastered the material has confidence going into the test

b. 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!

c. But the solution to not knowing God’s Word, and those of His Son, is a simple one: **read!**

4. It is not enough, though, to “know”, we must also “keep” His Word...

a. We must be “doers” of the Word - cf. **Mt 7:21, 24-27**

b. Only the one who “practices righteousness” is truly born of God and abiding in Jesus  
- cf. **1 Jn 2:29**

c. But if you know what Jesus has actually taught, it is not that “hard” to do what He says!  
- cf. **1 Jn 5:3**

d. Add to this the promise of the cleansing power of Jesus’ blood when we sin (**1 Jn 1:9**), we have every reason to have “confidence”!

## CONCLUSION:

1. 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!”**

2. 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!
3. As John says, “**Abide in Him,**” which we have seen occurs when we follow his earlier admonition:  
*“Therefore let that abide in you which you heard from the beginning. If what you heard from the beginning abides in you, you also will abide in the Son and in the Father.” (1 Jn 2:24)*

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

(Material from Mark A. Copeland)