

**I. Introduction and review: The beginning of a new section.**

**II. Abide in Christ so you will be unashamed when He appears. v. 28**

**A. What does it mean to abide in Christ? v. 28a 2:6,10,14,17,19,24,27 3:6,9,14,15,17,24 4:12,13,15,16 Jo. 15:4-10**

**1. John tells you how to abide in Christ.**

**a. Acknowledge Jesus as the Christ. 4:15 II Jo. 1:9**

**b. Let His Word dwell in your heart. 2:14,24 John 15:7 Ps. 1**

**c. Imitate His life. 2:6**

**d. Obey His commandments. 3:24 John 15:9-10**

**e. Love one another. 4:12 2:10**

**2. Make fellowship with Him the most important thing in your life. Luke 10:38-42**

**3. While conversion is a once and for all experience, abiding continues forever.**

**4. You are completely dependent upon Him. John 15:5b**

**5. When you are abiding in Christ, you will bear fruit and share His joy. Jo. 15:5b,8**

**B. The return of Jesus Christ motivates you to abide in Him. 2:28b**

**1. Bible prophecy is intensely practical.**

**2. Future events motivate us.**

**3. Jesus Christ is coming back!**

**4. Because we do not know when He will come, we must always be ready.**

**Mt. 25:13 24:36-51**

**C. In what sense will some shrink away in shame at Jesus' appearing? v. 28d**

**1. All unbelievers are unready to face Him. Mt. 24:45-51 Rev. 6:15-17 Dan. 12:2**

**2. Some professing believers have deluded themselves. 1:8 2:4,11 Mt. 7:21-23 22:12**

**3. Is it possible that real Christians could experience shame in His presence?**

**II Co. 5:10 Mt. 25:14f I Co. 3:10-15 Luke 22:61-62 Phil. 1:20**

**D. On what grounds will we have confidence at the parousia? v. 28c 3:21 4:17**

**1. Our ultimate confidence is that our sins are forgiven through Christ our Mediator, whose righteousness we have received as a gift. 1:7,9 2:1-2**

**2. As we continue to abide in Him, we can be confident that we have saving faith.**

**3. If Jesus were to return today, would you be ready?**

**III. Practice righteousness because your heavenly Father is righteous. 2:29**

**A. You know God is righteous. v. 29 1:9 2:1 John 17:25 Deut. 16:20 Ps. 11:7 36:6**

**1. Which other attributes of God does John highlight? 1:5 4:8**

**2. God is morally perfect. Isa. 6:1-3**

**3. God's righteous perfection is exemplified in Jesus Christ. 3:5 II Co. 5:21 Jo. 8:46**

**4. Many are ignorant of God's righteousness. 1:9 2:2 Mark 10:17f Mt. 26:39f 23:37**

**I Pe.3:18 Ro. 3:21-26**

**B. You have been born of our righteous God.**

**1. The new birth itself is a work of God. 3:9 4:7 5:1,4,18 John 1:12-13 3:3-8 I Pe. 1:3**

**2. The new birth precedes your faith. John 1:12-13 Eph 2:1-5**

**3. The new birth takes place in connection with God's Word. I Pe. 1:23 James 1:18**

**II Tim. 4:1f**

- C. Therefore you who are born of our righteous God practice righteousness.
1. Those who are born of God resemble Him spiritually. II Pe. 1:4 II Co.5:17
  2. Those who are born of God imitate their Father.
  3. We do not practice righteousness in order to be born of God, but because we are born of God. Eph. 2:5-10
  4. Though we are saved by grace alone through faith alone, God still holds us to a high standard of righteous conduct. 2:3f Ps. 11:7 Mt. 5:48 7:21-23 Titus 2:14
  5. John is not saying that those who are born of God are sinless.
- D. Those who do not practice righteousness are not born of God.
1. Those who are not born of God are incapable of practicing the righteousness God requires. Rom. 8:5f
  2. What righteousness does God require? Rom. 14:23 I Co. 10:31 Mt. 5:48 Co. 3:17
  3. An unbeliever is incapable of doing one single righteous deed. Rom. 3:10f
  4. All who practice righteousness show they are born of God.
- E. Is there evidence you are born of God?

#### IV. Concluding applications.

#### Discussion questions

1. What does it mean to abide in Christ?
2. How does the return of Christ motivate us to abide in Him?
3. Is it possible that professing Christians could be ashamed when Jesus returns? How?
4. How can you have confidence when Christ comes?
5. Describe the uncompromising righteousness of God.
6. What does God's righteousness have to do with our righteousness?
7. Which came first, God's act of giving you a new birth, or your act of faith?
8. What actions will certainly result when someone is born of God? Why?
9. What righteousness does God require?
10. Why can't an unbeliever practice this kind of righteousness?