

Living in Righteousness as Children of God

Jan 15, 2017

Text 1Jn 2:28 - 3:3:

Now, little children, abide in Him, so that when He appears, we may have confidence and not shrink away from Him in shame at His coming. ²⁹ If you know that He is righteous, you know that everyone also who practices righteousness is born of Him. ^{3:1} See how great a love the Father has bestowed on us, that we would be called children of God; and such we are. For this reason the world does not know us, because it did not know Him. ² Beloved, now we are children of God, and it has not appeared as yet what we will be. We know that when He appears, we will be like Him, because we will see Him just as He is. ³ And everyone who has this hope fixed on Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.

Overview:

And now John thinks about the way forward. He encourages his readers to 'remain' in Christ—to commit themselves day by day to his truth and life. One day Jesus will return to this earth, and we want to be able to welcome him with a clear conscience.

John reminds us of the central, wonderful fact that God loves us and has made us his children. If times are hard, it's because we live in a world that resists God. But the future is glorious. We are to share the family likeness and glory of Jesus. This exciting identity and hope encourage us to live pure lives now. (The Bible Guide; by Knowles)

Abide:

Definition:

"to abide, to remain, to sojourn, tarry." (from Thayer)

How it is used: It is used 120 times in the New Testament; It is used 67 times by John:

to abide, abides, abiding (41 times);
to remain, remains, remained (12X);
to stay, stayed, staying (9X)
remained, remaining (2X);
to endure (1X); to be in (1X); lives (1X)

Three Greek words: (from Holman Treasury of Key Bible Words)

There are 3 Greek words to help us see 3 aspects of a believer's life.

- 1) The verb of being (in), refers to the saint's position in Christ.
He has been placed into vital union with Him by the Holy Spirit, placing him in Christ. The saint's position in Christ, makes possible his Christian manner of life.
- 2) The word (abide), refers to the saint's fellowship with, dependence upon Him, communion, closeness of communication.
The saint's fellowship with and dependence upon the Lord Jesus, makes it possible to live the Christian life.
- 3) The word (walk) "to order one's behavior, to conduct one's self," (literally means "to walk around") speaks of the saint's manner of life.
Since the way a person walks is often evidence as to the kind of person he is; the word not only referred to the physical act of walking, but came to have the idea of the manner of life of the person.

The return (Second coming) of Jesus:

There are five terms (Greek words) used for the return of Jesus:

1. Parousia = coming of; refers to an imminent royal visit.

Used by:

Matthew

Mt 24:3 ... "Tell us, when will these things happen, and what will be the sign of Your coming, and of the end of the age?" (Mt 24:27, 37, 39)

John

1Jn 2:28 ... so that when He appears, we may have confidence and not shrink away from Him in shame at His coming.

Peter

2Pt 3:4 and saying, "Where is the promise of His coming? For ever since the fathers fell asleep, all continues just as it was from the beginning of creation." (2Pt 1:16; 3:12)

James

Jas 5:7-8 ... until the coming of the Lord ... for the coming of the Lord is near.

Paul

1Thes 2:19 ... Is it not even you, in the presence of our Lord Jesus at His coming? (1Thes 3:13; 4:15; 5:23; 2Thes 2:1, 8; 1Cor 15:23)

2. Epiphaneia = refers to an appearing, often understood as presence.

(This was used exclusively by Paul)

2Thes 2:8 Then that lawless one will be revealed whom the Lord will slay with the breath of His mouth and bring to an end by the appearance of His coming; (1Tim 1:14; 2Tim 4:1, 8; Tit 2:13)

3. Apokalupsis = refers to an unveiling or disclosure

Lk 17:30 "It will be just the same on the day that the Son of Man is revealed.

(1Cor 1:7; Gal 1:12; 2Thes 1:7; 2:8; 1Pt 1:7; 4:13)

4. Phanerōs = means to clearly reveal or manifest

1Jn 2:28 Now, little children, abide in Him, so that when He appears, we may have confidence and not shrink away from Him in shame at His coming. (1Jn 3:2, 5; Col 3:4; 1Pt 5:4)

"when He appears"

The Greek word for "appears" = "to be made manifest or visible." (from Wuest's Word Studies)

5. Erchomai = is the common term for "coming;" also of the Second Coming

Mt 16:27-28 "For the Son of Man is going to come in the glory of His Father with His angels, and WILL THEN REPAY EVERY MAN ACCORDING TO HIS DEEDS. 28 "Truly I say to you, there are some of those who are standing here who will not taste death until they see the Son of Man coming in His kingdom." (Mt 23:39; 24:30; 25:31; Ac 1:10, 11; 1Cor 11:26; Rev 1:7, 8)

1Jn 2:28 when He appears, we may have confidence ...

"confidence" = "freedom in speaking, unreservedness in speech, free and fearless confidence, cheerful courage, boldness, assurance." (from Wuest's Word Studies)

How it is used in the NT:

1) Confidence, boldness, or assurance before men:

Ac 4:13 Now as they observed the confidence of Peter and John and understood that they were uneducated and untrained men, they were amazed, and began to recognize them as having been with Jesus. (Ac 2:29; 4:31; 2Cor 3:12; Eph 6:19)

2) Confidence before God

1Jn 2:28 ... when He appears, we may have confidence ... at His coming.

1Jn 3:21 Beloved, if our heart does not condemn us, we have confidence before God;

1 Jn 4:17 By this, love is perfected with us, so that we may have confidence in the day of judgment; because as He is, so also are we in this world.

1Jn:5:14 This is the confidence which we have before Him, that, (Heb 3:6; 4:16; 10:19)

3) To speak openly, plainly, or unambiguously

Mk 8:32 And He was stating the matter plainly... (Jn 7:13; 10:24; 11:14; 16:25; 18:20; Ac 28:31)

4) To speak publically

Jn 7:26 "Look, He is speaking publicly, and they are saying nothing to Him. The rulers do not really know that this is the Christ, do they? (Jn 11:54)

5) The related form (parrhēsiazomai) is used to preach boldly amidst difficult circumstances

Ac 18:26 and he began to speak out boldly in the synagogue ... (Ac 19:8; Eph 6:20; 1Thes 2:2)

1Jn 2:28 ... and not shrink away from Him ...

"not shrink away from Him"

shrink away = "to be suffused with shame, be made ashamed."

Rev 6:15-17 Then the kings of the earth and the great men and the commanders and the rich and the strong and every slave and free man hid themselves in the caves and among the rocks of the mountains; 16 and they said to the mountains and to the rocks, "Fall on us and hide us from the presence of Him who sits on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb; 17 for the great day of their wrath has come, and who is able to stand?" (Lk 23:30)

1Jn 2:28 ... in shame at His coming.

Gen 2:25 And the man and his wife were both naked and were not ashamed .

Gen 3:7 Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loin coverings.

Gen 3:10 ... "I heard the sound of You in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid myself."

Heb 12:2 fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

Rev 3:18 I advise you to buy from Me gold refined by fire so that you may become rich, and white garments so that you may clothe yourself, and that the shame of your nakedness will not be revealed;

1Jn 3:2 We know that when He appears, we will be like Him, because we will see Him just as He is.

Ps 17:15 As for me, I shall behold Your face in righteousness; I will be satisfied with Your likeness when I awake.

1Cor 15:49-53 Just as we have borne the image of the earthy, we will also bear the image of the heavenly. 50 Now I say this, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable. 51 Behold, I tell you a mystery; we will not all sleep, but we will all be changed, 52 in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet; for the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed. 53 For this perishable must put on the imperishable, and this mortal must put on immortality.

Phil 3:20-21 For our citizenship is in heaven, from which also we eagerly wait for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ; 21 who will transform the body of our humble state into conformity with the body of His glory, by the exertion of the power that He has even to subject all things to Himself.

Col 3:4 When Christ, who is our life, is revealed, then you also will be revealed with Him in glory.

Three aspects of Righteousness:

1 Jn 2:29 If you know that He is righteous, you know that everyone also who practices righteousness is born of Him.

1 Jn 3:3 And everyone who has this hope fixed on Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.

1) God's righteousness is a free gift

Rom 3:24 being justified as a gift by His grace through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus;

Rom 6:23 For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

1Cor 1:30 But by His doing you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification, and redemption,

Eph 2:8-9 For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; 9 not as a result of works, so that no one may boast.

2) God's righteousness is received by faith

Rom 10:6-13 But the righteousness based on faith speaks as follows: "DO NOT SAY IN YOUR HEART, 'WHO WILL ASCEND INTO HEAVEN?' (that is, to bring Christ down), 7 or 'WHO WILL DESCEND INTO THE ABYSS?' (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead)." 8 But what does it say? "THE WORD IS NEAR YOU, IN YOUR MOUTH AND IN YOUR HEART"--that is, the word of faith which we are preaching, 9 that if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved; 10 for with the heart a person believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation. 11 For the Scripture says, "WHOEVER BELIEVES IN HIM WILL NOT BE DISAPPOINTED." 12 For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; for the same Lord is Lord of all, abounding in riches for all who call on Him; 13 for "WHOEVER WILL CALL ON THE NAME OF THE LORD WILL BE SAVED." (Rom 1:17; 3:22, 26; 4:3, 5, 13; 9:30; 10:4)

3) Righteousness is practiced (pursued) by believers

1 Jn 3:3 And everyone who has this hope fixed on Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.

2Tim 3:16 All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; (1Tim 6:11; 2Tim 2:22)

1Jn 3:7 Little children, make sure no one deceives you; the one who practices righteousness is righteous, just as He is righteous;

1Pt 2:24 and He Himself bore our sins in His body on the cross, so that we might die to sin and live to righteousness; for by His wounds you were healed.

Eph 5:8-10 for you were formerly darkness, but now you are Light in the Lord; walk as children of Light 9 (for the fruit of the Light consists in all goodness and righteousness and truth), 10 trying to learn what is pleasing to the Lord.

Children of God

1 Jn 3:1-2 See how great a love the Father has bestowed on us, that we would be called children of God; and such we are. For this reason the world does not know us, because it did not know Him. 2 Beloved, now we are children of God,

“that we would be called”

This is used in the sense of an honorific title (“children of God”) given by God.

“children of God” This is the focus of 2:29-3:10.

It confirms God’s initiative in our salvation

Jn 6:44 “No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him; and I will raise him up on the last day.

Jn 6:65 And He was saying, “For this reason I have said to you, that no one can come to Me unless it has been granted him from the Father.”

John uses familial terms to describe the believer’s new relationship with God

1Jn 2:29 If you know that He is righteous, you know that everyone also who practices righteousness is born of Him.

1Jn 3:1 See how great a love the Father has bestowed on us, that we would be called children of God; and such we are. For this reason the world does not know us, because it did not know Him.

Jn 1:12 But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name,

Jn 3:2 this man came to Jesus by night and said to Him, “Rabbi, we know that You have come from God as a teacher; for no one can do these signs that You do unless God is with him.”

Jn 3:9-10 Nicodemus said to Him, “How can these things be?” 10 Jesus answered and said to him, “Are you the teacher of Israel and do not understand these things?”

Note: Apostolic terms used to describe the believer’s relationship with God through Christ.

John = “born again”

Jn 3:3 Jesus answered and said to him, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God.” (Jn 1:3; 3:3-8; 1Jn 3:9; 4:7; 5:1,4, 18)

Peter = “born again”

1Pt 1:3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, (1Pt 1:23)

Paul = “adoption”

Rom 8:15 For you have not received a spirit of slavery leading to fear again, but you have received a spirit of adoption as sons by which we cry out, “Abba! Father!” (Rom 8:23; Rom 9:4)

Gal 4:5-6 so that He might redeem those who were under the Law, that we might receive the adoption as sons. 6 Because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, crying, " Abba! Father!"

Eph 1:5 He predestined us to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself, ...

James = “birth” or “bringing forth”

Jas 1:18 In the exercise of His will He brought us forth by the word of truth, so that we would be a kind of first fruits among His creatures.

“and such we are”

This phrase is not found in the King James Version of the Bible because it was not included in the later Greek manuscripts on which the KJV is based. However, this phrase does appear in several of the most ancient Greek manuscripts