

***“Abide in Him”***

October 9, 2011

Text: 1 John 2:26-29

**As pastors, our 1<sup>st</sup> desire is to bring those we teach to Christ,  
by bringing X before them.**

So we lift Him up before them, asking them to look unto Him w/  
eyes of faith, in order to become saved from their sin.

**Our 2<sup>nd</sup> desire is to guide them into a spiritual union w/ Jesus.**

We want for them to place their faith/trust in Him, so that their  
souls become connected to Him like a branch connected to  
a vine, deriving its very life from that vine.

We don't know at exactly what point that happens in a person's  
heart.

Some people pray/cry profusely, & we think for sure  
they've received the H.S.'s washing of  
regeneration/renewal.

But after awhile they leave the Church, which would never  
happen, if they were truly saved.

They would be miserable, separated from the  
fellowship of fellow saints.

I Jn 2:19=> *“They went out from us, but they were  
not really of us; for if they had been of us, they  
would have remained with us.”*

Jesus explained that such people are like seed that falls on rocky  
ground and springs up quickly, but then dies, having never  
developed a viable/life-sustaining root system.

Or like seed planted in thorny soil that gets choked out by weeds, that represent the worries of the world & the deceitfulness of riches.

They come close to getting saved, w/o actually becoming saved.

**Our 3<sup>rd</sup> desire is for those who confess X to hold onto their faith in Him.**

The Apostle John wrote to such people saying, “*Abide in Him.*”

I would make that same plea to you today=> Abide in Jesus X.

Despite whatever temptations/pressures Satan may apply to persuade you to give up your faith in X, remain at the foot of the cross, holding onto Him for your salvation.

I would pray that you heed X’s words=>

*“If you **abide** in My word, then you are **truly disciples** of Mine; / and you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free” (Jn 8:31-32).*

**I worry about people who have sat under my teaching (maybe for years) but have never become truly born again.**

I don’t know who they are, but I know I don’t want to enter the Lord’s presence someday, look around, and realize they’re not there, & they won’t be coming.

They came close to a saving relationship w/ our Lord, but they didn’t abide in Him.

Something/someone prevented them from ever taking root in the faith, and finalizing & faithfully holding onto their commitment-to Him.

Someone: Aren't you leaving God's sovereign election out of it?

No, I'm doing what Scripture does, acknowledging=>

- \* that God's sovereignty determines everything,
- \* but that God holds us responsible for our own decisions.

John is appealing to our will when he says, "Abide in X."

I.e., remain faithful to what our Lord taught us about Himself.

As I Jn 2:24 puts it=> *"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."*

As Heb 10:35 puts it=> *"Do not throw away your confidence, which has a great reward."*

### **What exactly does "abiding in X" mean?**

As we saw last time, it basically means to remain/stay-put.

But in terms of living our lives each day as Xns, it means=>

- \* Remaining faithful to the precepts Jesus taught, not changing our beliefs about X, not making wealth/honor/pleasure our primary goals.

Not following the ways of the world, or trying to live our lives independent of X, but letting Him encompass us as a fish is encompassed and surrounded w/ water.

I.e., living our lives “in X.”

Saying with Paul=> “*For to me to live is X*”  
(Phil 1:21).

- \* It means remaining faithful in our love-for/trust-in Him even when the circumstances of our lives change; Not hopping in/out of our Xn profession from day to day, if we suffer persecution/illness/loss-of-job, or loss of a loved-one.

When Jesus’ followers started leaving Him in droves,

He asked the Twelve=> “*You do not want to go away also, do you?*” (Jn 6:67).

Peter answered=> “*Lord, to whom shall we go? You have words of eternal life*” (Jn 6:69).

Those who really abide in X wouldn’t dream of leaving.

- \* It means persevering in our obedience to Him, submitting our thoughts/words/actions to His will, just as the hand submits to the commands of the head.
- \* It means learning to feel at home with X, being “in X.”

Charles Spurgeon: “I was speaking yesterday to a friend who had bought a pleasant house, with a large garden. And he said to me, ‘I now feel as if I have a home. I have lived in London for years and have changed from one house to another with as little regret as a man feels in changing an omnibus. But I have always longed for the home feeling that hung about my father’s house in the country. Why, there we loved the cozy rooms and the look-outs from the little windows and the corner cupboards in the kitchen. As for the garden and the field, they yielded constant delight, for there was that bush in the garden

where the robin had built and the tree with the blackbird's nest... There is a difference between a house and a home.”

Applying this illustration to abiding in X, Spurgeon added=> “As a man at home is all there, feel at ease in fellowship with Him.”

That fellowship with X is a key component of abiding in Him.

**In today's text, John will explore the issues & answers you need to understand as you seek to abide in Christ...**

What you have going/working against you,  
What you have going for you,  
What you have to motivate you, to abide in X,  
What you have to assure you, that you are abiding in X.

**\* What You Have Going Against You**

**Among the various pressures which prevent people from abiding in X, deceptive false teachers tops the list.**

- \* They may be 19 year-olds at your door with literature from a cult.
- \* They may be smug college professors who hate Jesus X and disdain you for believing in Him.
- \* They may be people whose books your friends give you to read.

**[1 John 2:26]=> “These things I have written to you concerning those who are trying to *deceive* you.”**

“*These things*” include everything that John has just said about false teachers throughout this chapter=>

- \* They are the contemporary equivalents of the antichrist, who often arise from within the Church, but then leave it, proving they were never really a part of it, spiritually.
- \* They are arch-liars who deny Jesus is X, the Son of God. And in doing so, they also prove that they have no relationship with God the Father.

**John refers to these false teachers as “deceivers.”**

Part of their deceitfulness is that they seem like sincere people who are just searching for the truth themselves.

But that’s part of the deception.

They’re never content to keep their heresies to themselves.

Satan has inspired them (whether/not they know it) with a desire to convert others to their deceptions— particularly those who believe in Jesus.

It is their ambition to shake the believers’ faith.

John says they’re intentionally trying to do that, prob.

seeking a reputation as deep thinkers themselves.

Deception of Xns is their chosen lifework.

John’s readers need to realize, the deceivers who threaten their faith aren’t harmless, as they might appear.

They’re as dangerous as Jesus prophesied they would be, warning His followers=>

*“Take heed; behold, I have told you everything in advance” (Mk 13:22-23).*

**Notice the important word “trying” in verse 26 of our text.**

They hadn't succeeded in deceiving true believers, because no one can cause the elect to abandon their faith.

Even the Antichrist himself won't be able to pull that off.

Jn 10:5 describes X's followers as His sheep, saying—

*“A stranger they simply will not follow, but will flee from him, because they do not know the voice of strangers.”*

But spiritual deceivers can cause enormous amounts of turmoil for Xns nonetheless, undermining believers' devotion to X, their joy in the Lord, and their certainty about Xn doctrine.

In addition, they can cause those who are new in the faith, who haven't actually committed themselves to X yet, to become sidetracked into false doctrine before they ever do so.

Hearts which appeared at one time to be fertile soil for the seed of the gospel, suddenly become barren, as if the deceivers had seeded them with salt.

John says in essence, “Realize that this is what you're up against, in your desire to abide in X.”

\* **What You Have Going for You** (the anointing of the H.S.)

[Verse 27]=> *“And as for you [in stark contrast to the deceivers], the anointing which you received from Him abides in you, and you have no need for anyone to teach you; but as His anointing teaches you about all things, and is true and is not a lie, and just as it has taught you, you abide in Him.”*

**As we saw back in verse 20, the believer's “anointing” is H.S.**

There John wrote=> *“You have an **anointing** from the Holy*

*One [God], and you all know.”*

How do we know?

Because (as verse 27 says) the “anointing” teaches  
us.

Believers are protected by the indwelling H.S. from any  
deception that might keep them from abiding in X, or cause  
them to abandon their faith.

Jesus had promised that He would send the H.S. to indwell  
believers, & the H.S. would teach/guide us into all  
truth.

1<sup>st</sup>, the Spirit inspired the Apostles to write the N.T.

Jesus had told them=> *“The Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom  
the Father will send in My name, He will **teach you  
all things**, and bring to your remembrance all that I  
said to you”* (Jn 14:26).

Because the Spirit taught the NT’s writers *“all things”*  
(not just some of the things we need to know), there  
are no gaps in our Xn theology that deceivers can  
take advantage of.

In fact, Peter would later write=> *“His divine power has  
granted to us **everything** pertaining to life and  
godliness”* (II Pet 1:3).

If there are any weaknesses in our understanding that  
deceivers might exploit, it’s not because God has  
withheld any information we need to know;  
It’s only because we haven’t yet learned it.

2<sup>nd</sup>, the Spirit illuminates individual believers to properly interpret/understand/apply the words the Apostles wrote/taught.

That's not wishful thinking; It's basic biblical truth.

1 Cor 2:12=> *"We have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might know the things freely given to us by God."*

How were they given to us? In the Word.

The Spirit gives us all the understanding we need in order to distinguish between truth/error as we study the Bible.

John even assures us that=> *"the anointing which you received from Him abides [stays/remains] in you."*

There's no chance the H.S. will depart from us, leaving us vulnerable to the deceptions of false teachers.

Even when we sin, the H.S. still doesn't leave us.

**John adds=> *"You have no need for anyone to teach you."***

Does the Church really have no need of teachers at all?

No, this cannot be what John meant, because by that very statement, he was teaching believers.

Moreover, Eph 4:11 says the Spirit Himself has given the Church=> *"some as **apostles**, and some as **prophets**, and some as **evangelists**, and some as **pastors** and **teachers**"* (all various teaching roles).

In II Tim 2:24, Paul said pastors must be *"able to **teach**"* in order to qualify as pastors.

Why would the H.S. give the Church all these teachers if it didn't need any of them?

He wouldn't! We do need them!

What Xns don't need, is more deceitful false-teachers who are outside the Church (especially those who went out from us because they were never really of us).

They stayed just long enough to learn Xn doctrine, so they could pervert it, into false doctrine.

We must not rely on those who present human wisdom as if it were of equal value w/ divinely inspired Scripture;  
Or who teach any sort of man-centered philosophy;  
Or who twist Scripture truth in an attempt to  
diminish either X's deity/humanity.

Paul asked the question=> *“Where is the wise man? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? / For since in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom did not come to know God, God was well-pleased through the foolishness of the **message preached** to save those who believe”* (I Cor 1:21).

What Xns need is Spirit-gifted teachers who can/will teach God's Word;

Teachers who abide in X themselves, and in whose own hearts the Word of God abides richly.

If we teachers will be faithful to do our job, Xns will be equipped to discern the deceptions of false teachers.

**Ultimately, those who teach in the Church are sub-teachers.**

The believer's primary teacher is the H.S. Himself, who simply uses His Word, and the teachers He has gifted, to lead God's people into all truth, generation after generation.

In verse 27, John provides 3 assurances that the Spirit can accomplish this=>

1) He says the H.S. instructs us in all the truth we need to know=>

*"His anointing teaches you about all things."*

The Spirit illuminates our understanding of all Scripture, enabling us to interpret/apply it correctly.

2) His instruction is completely reliable=>

*"...and [it] is true and is not a lie."*

Everything He has-revealed/enables-us-to-understand is absolutely true, w/ no allowance whatever for error/deception.

That's why Jesus called Him *"the Spirit of truth"* (Jn 14:17).

3) The truth He teaches is eternal & unchanging=>

*"just as it [the anointing of H.S.] has taught you."*

What John's readers had been taught and had learned earlier was still true, and would always be true.

OT truth wasn't replaced by the NT, because the original principles were retained/built-upon by the NT.

**So the anointing of the Spirit has provided believers w/ every necessary safeguard from the false teachers' deceptions.**

That's what John means by the last 4 words in verse 27=>

He says=> "For all these reasons, and because of all the spiritual protection the Spirit has given you from false teachers=> '*you abide in Him*'" (this is a statement of fact, not a command).

I.e., you do abide in X, because the H.S. abides in you.

The Xn's anointing w/ the H.S. is his guarantee and confidence that deceivers need never deceive him.

This is what the believer has "going-for" him.

He couldn't have any better protection from deceivers, who will do all they can to keep him from abiding in X.

### **\* What You Have to Motivate You**

Very simply, believers are motivated to abide in X, by the prospect of looking forward w/ confidence to X's return.

[Verse 28]=> "*And now, little children, abide in Him, so that [here comes our motivation] when He appears, we may have confidence and not shrink away from Him in shame at His coming.*"

**There is a subtle, but important, nuance here.**

In the verse before this, John has just said that, because we are anointed w/ the H.S., we do abide in X.

Now he gives us a command to abide in X.

This is the paradox we see so often in Scripture—God’s sovereignty matched up with man’s responsibility.

We abide in the faith, because X’s strong arm won’t let us go, but we are also to take responsibility for keeping ourselves in the faith, and abiding in Him.

God preserves our faith, but we are to persevere in it.

As Jude 21 puts it=> “*Keep yourselves in the love of God*” (the sovereign love of God).

**Here in our own text, John appeals to his readers with tenderness, again calling them “*little children.*”**

He calls upon them to activate their own wills, & thus to abide in X.

And he portrays their anticipation of welcoming X at His return as the motivation that should compel them to do so.

“*Confidence*” refers to speaking boldly/frankly/publicly, rather than hiding things from someone to whom you are talking.

Heb 10:19 says we have confidence to enter the holy place in prayer, because X’s death has opened the way for us to do so.

Although we remain reverent before our Lord, we have a confidence/freedom to tell Him truthfully/openly what’s on our minds.

**John uses 2 words here to describe Jesus’ return=>**

1) “*Appears*” (*phaneroo*), in which the invisible becomes visible (i.e., when He who is invisible becomes visible to us).

We cannot see Jesus now, but we love Him (I Pet 1:8).

When He returns, we'll at last see this One we have loved.

2) “*Coming*” (*parousia*), a word used for the visit of a king, (which lit. refers to his “presence”) and was always an occasion for celebration/rejoicing.

So X's return will involve His personal presence with us (a cause of great joy for us), and our literally being able to look on His face.

When will X's coming take place? On 2 different occasions.

\* For nonbelievers, He will return at the Second Coming.

Rev 19:11 says heaven will open, & He'll ride forth on a white horse to judge, with eyes of flame.

He will destroy His enemies at Armageddon, and then condemn them at the Great White Throne Judgment.

\* But for believers X's coming will have taken place at the Rapture, 7 years earlier.

Both living/dead believers will receive resurrected bodies, we will meet our Lord in the air, & we will proceed to heaven & the “Judgment Seat of Christ.”

**But the question is, will we be confident about that judgment?**

We will be confident that it won't lead to our condemnation,  
because the Judgment Seat is only for believers, and only to  
determine their eternal rewards (not their condemnation).

Rom 8:1=> *“There is therefore now **no condemnation** for  
those who are in Christ Jesus.”*

But not all Xns will be equally confident about their rewards.

2 Jn 8=> *“Watch yourselves, that you might not **lose** what  
**we** have accomplished, but that you may receive a  
**full reward.**”*

Every believer will receive=>

- \* A crown of life (Jms 1:12)
- \* A crown of righteousness (2 Tim 4:8)
- \* A crown of rejoicing (I Thes 2:19)
- \* A crown of glory (I Pet 5:4).

But our *rewards* seem to be something in addition to those  
crowns (which are life/righteousness/rejoicing/glory  
themselves).

Why would some Xns lack confidence about their rewards?

Because the deeds of their lives won't merit much of a  
reward.

[1 Cor 3:12-15]=> *“Now if any man builds upon the  
foundation [X] with gold, silver, precious stones,  
wood, hay, straw, / each man's work will become  
evident; for the day will show it, because it is to be  
revealed with fire; and the fire itself will test the  
quality of each man's work. / If any man's work which  
he has built upon it remains, he **shall** receive a  
**reward.** / If any man's work is burned up, he shall  
suffer loss; but he himself shall be saved, yet so as*

*through fire.”*

John is saying, “Abide in X so that you may be confident that you’ll be among those who receive a full reward, not walking away in shame.

\* Some Xns serve their Lord so faithfully that, if He should now suddenly appear in the sky, they wouldn’t be alarmed at all. They would feel perfectly at home w/ this dear old Friend, to whom they’ve always prayed.

\* Others, who have served themselves (not X), & have preferred this world’s pleasures to holiness, can have no such confidence, because they have compromised with the world.

One honest man was asked how he would feel if the Lord suddenly appeared right now.

He answered candidly=> “I would not be afraid. But I think I would be ashamed.”

He didn’t fear the Lord’s condemnation, but he was honest enough to admit he hadn’t served Him as he should, and would prob. feel ashamed.

**The ultimate in shame that must shrink from Jesus’ coming, is the person to whom X will say, “I never knew you.”**

This is the person about whom X said (Jn 15:6)=> *“If anyone does not abide in Me, he is thrown away as a branch, and dries up; and they gather them, and cast them into the fire, and they are burned.”*

It was to just such people that Mal 3:2 was written=> *“Who can*

*endure the day of His coming? And who can stand when He appears? For He is like a refiner's fire & like fullers' soap."*

Our own motivation for abiding in X, is the confidence that when He returns, we'll be glad to see Him, & He to see us, as He rewards us richly.

\* **What You Have to Assure You** (your own righteousness)

[Verse 29]=> *"If you know that He [jGod] is righteous, you know that everyone also who practices righteousness is born of Him."*

**Those who truly know God, because they have a personal relationship w/ His Son—Jesus X—know that He is a perfectly righteous/holy God.**

Whereas the world freely questions that, whenever a tragedy strikes, those who truly know Him have a settled assurance in their hearts that God is infinitely righteous, just as His Word reveals Him to be.

They also know they are born again, & He's their spiritual Father, because they see His righteousness in their own lives.

Like Father, like child.

God, being righteous, gives birth to children who are righteous, & who reflect His own character.

Not just in terms of imputed righteousness, but increasingly in personal/practical righteousness as well.

There is no possible exception to this principle.

So as they view the increasing practical righteousness emerging in their lives, it provides confidence of their own regeneration.

Doing what is right is an assurance of spiritual rebirth, providing confidence that when X returns, we will receive a reward.

On the other hand, a life of continual, unmitigated unrighteousness gives no reason whatever for such confidence.

In fact, it gives no confidence that the person is even saved.

I Jn 2:3-4=> *“By this we know that we have come to know Him, if we keep His commandments. / The one who says, ‘I have come to know Him,’ and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him.”*

According to Brooke Westcott (19<sup>th</sup> century expert on biblical Gk), John uses a grammatical form here in verse 29 of our text, that invites self-examination.

He is saying, “You do see that kind of righteousness, and that kind of abiding-faithfulness to X developing in your own life, don’t you? So be confident of X’s return, that you will receive a wonderful reward.”

I hope you too can answer “Yes,” & sing w/ Wm Featherston,  
“My Jesus, I love Thee, I **know** Thou art mine.”

If not, as I said at the outset, I hope that I have brought you before X today, and that what I’ve said will lead you into

an abiding spiritual union with Him, as you humble your heart before Him in faith.

## ***“Abide in Him”***

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Text: 1 John 2:26-29

1. Some people cry, and we think for sure they have received regeneration; but after awhile they leave the Church, which would never happen if they were [12 truly] saved.

I Jn 2:19

2. Our desire is for them to hold onto their faith in Christ; John wrote to such people saying, “[12 Abide] in Him.”

Jn 8:31-32; I Jn 2:24; Heb 10:35

### **What exactly does “abiding in Christ” mean in terms of our daily lives?**

\*3. Remaining faithful to the [18 precepts] Jesus taught.

\*4. Remaining faithful in our love for, and our [12 trust] in Him.

Jn 6:68, 69

\*5. Persevering in our [22 obedience] to Him.

\*6. Learning to feel at [10 home] with Christ.

### **In today’s text, John will explore the issues and answers you need to understand if you seek to abide in Christ...**

#### **\* What You Have Going Against You**

7. Among the various pressures which prevent people from abiding in Christ, deceptive [12 false] teachers top the list.

**[1 John 2:26]**

Mk 13:22-23; Jn 10:5

8. Spiritual deceivers can cause enormous turmoil, undermining believers’ devotion to Christ, their [8 joy] in the Lord, and their certainty about Christian doctrine.

#### **\* What You Have Going for You**

**[Verse 27]**

9. The believer’s “anointing” is the [10 Holy] [12 Spirit].

I Jn 2:20; Jn 14:26; II Pet 1:3

10. The Spirit illuminates individual believers to properly interpret, understand, and apply the words the [18 Apostles] wrote.

11. What Christians need is Spirit-gifted teachers who abide in Christ themselves and in whose own hearts the [10 Word] of God abides richly.

Jn 14:17

12. The anointing of the Spirit has provided believers with every necessary safeguard from false teachers' [22 deceptions].

\* **What You Have to Motivate You**

[Verse 28]

13. God preserves our faith, but we are to [22 persevere] in it.

Jude 21; Heb 10:19; I Pet 1:8; Rev 19:11

14. We will be confident that the Judgment Seat is only for believers' rewards (not their condemnation); but [8 not] all Christians will be equally confident about their rewards.

2 Jn 8; I Cor 3:12-15; Mal 3:2

\* **What You Have to Assure You**

[Verse 29]

15. Those who truly know God know they are born again because they see [8 His] righteousness in their own lives.

I Jn 2:3-4

16. John is saying in essence, You do see that kind of righteousness in your own life, don't you? So be [20 confident] about Christ's return.