

The Blessings of Abiding in Christ

1 John 3:1-10

In order that we see the context of today's passage, I want to purposefully pick up where Dr. Arnett preached last week with 1 Jn 2:28-29 in order to set the stage for what we will examine today. This morning we want to examine the blessings of abiding in Christ; therefore, allow me to read verses 28-29 again: "And now, little children, abide in him, so that when he appears we may have confidence and not shrink from him in shame at his coming. If you know that he is righteous, you may be sure that everyone who practices righteousness has been born of him." In these last two verses of chapter 2 and these first 10 verses of chapter 3, we see the benefits of abiding in Christ. Abiding in Christ must be like breathing for the Christian. Everything hinges on our Abiding in Jesus.

We Have Confidence in Our Salvation (1 John 3:1) "See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are. The reason why the world does not know us is that it did not know him." When you as a Christian, abide in Christ, I mean spend time with Him, you walk not with an arrogance, but with confidence. You realize that you're not powerful enough to change anything through your own power, but through Christ all things are possible! I believe the writer of Hebrews shares this confidence. Listen to Hebrews 10:39: "But we are not of those who shrink back and are destroyed, but of those who have faith and preserve their souls." If you do not have confidence in Christ and such a great salvation that He has given you, either you do not know Him or you are not abiding/walking with Him. He wants to give you peace through a relationship with Him and in a peaceful world!

We Will Conform to the Likeness of Christ (1 John 3:2-3) "Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is. **1 John 3:3** "And everyone who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure." In Christ we are conforming to His likeness. In two separate passages Paul really conveys just this. Romans 8:29-30: "For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. 30 And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified." And another passage is Philippians 1:6 "And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ." As we abide in Jesus, He is molding us to become more like Him. I do not believe we will obtain perfection on this side of eternity. I do believe we will be growing towards that though. Look at the front of your bulletin. One of our mission statements is to "grow in His ways..."

We Believe Jesus Conquered Sin and Satan (1 John 3:4-8) "Everyone who makes a practice of sinning also practices; sin is lawlessness. 1Jn 3:5 You know that he appeared in order to take away sins, and in him there is no sin. 1Jn 3:6 No one who abides in him keeps on sinning; no one who keeps on sinning has either seen him or known him. (1 John 3:7-8) "Little children, let no one deceive you. Whoever practices righteousness is righteous, as he is righteous. Whoever

makes a practice of sinning is of the devil, for the devil has been sinning from the beginning. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the works of the devil.” This is the core of our fundamental and foundational beliefs. Jesus came to destroy sin, Satan, and the sting of death.

We are Children of God (1 John 3:9-10) 1Jn 3:9 No one born of God makes a practice of sinning, for God's seed abides in him; and he cannot keep on sinning, because he has been born of God. 1 Jn 3:10 By this it is evident who are the children of God, and who are the children of the devil: whoever does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor is the one who does not love his brother. At the end of the day, we are God’s children because of our relationship with Jesus Christ!

I’ve spoke a lot about these blessings this morning, I must ask the question, are these your blessings? Do you truly know Christ? I not asking if you know about Jesus! I’m asking if you abide in Him! How do you do that? You surrender your life to Him. You love Him as John 8:42 commands us to do. Do not asking if you’re a fan of Jesus, I’m asking if you are on the playing field for Christ, being used as an instrument of His glory!