

# 1 John 2:28-3:3

## WHEN HE APPEARS

3/18/19

There are a number of things we could consider from these verses. One of the things that has caught my attention is the phrase, “When He appears”. We tend to think a lot about what Christ did when He came—past tense. I wonder how often we think about when He comes again—future tense. Perhaps that is because so many go way too far in trying to figure out exactly when that will be. We don’t know that, nor do we know exactly how it will happen. What we do know is that it will happen. Jesus is coming again.

John reminds his readers of that. Living in light of Christ’s appearing has present day implications.

One of these implications is confidence. Chapter 3, verse 1 is a favorite verse of many of us. God has lavished (what a great word in the NIV) His love on us. So much so, that we are now His children! What an amazing truth. It gives us confidence because if God loves us that much, we will not be disappointed at His appearing. We will not shrink at His coming; we will revel in it. One writer suggested that a great measure of our spiritual health might be our attitude toward Christ’s appearing again.

Which leads us to a second implication: focus. **1 John 3:3** says “everyone who hopes in Him purifies himself as He is pure.” Anticipating Christ’s return helps us put life in perspective. It narrows our focus. In **Matthew 25** Jesus tells a story about a master who entrusts his servants with talents. In the story it means money, but I think it broadly can be applied to resources. The point of the story is that the master returns suddenly to evaluate the use of the resources he entrusted to his servants. The summation is that those who are faithful in little will be deemed faithful in much. I think that story applies to Christ’s appearing. If so, then the story has significant implications for how we invest our lives now, and how we will live in eternity.

### QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER:

1. What does it mean to purify ourselves based on our hope of eternity?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. Does everyone face judgment after we die, including believers?

