

# Lessons From I John

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## Confidence In Christ's Return

(I Jn 2:28-29)

### INTRODUCTION

1. Good Morning
  - a. Greeting...
2. Series of "Lessons From I John."
  - a. What to keep in mind concerning I John.
    - i. Context: John is writing to combat Gnosticism and the dangers of its false doctrines.
    - ii. Content: John's writing is to the Christians then concerning what they must know to have security in their Christianity.
3. The second coming
  - a. There has been much written about and said concerning the second coming of Christ.
    - i. "Christendom" is fascinate with this topic not for the "truth" concerning it usually but for the fantasies they have imagined about it.
  - b. John in his writing here and in his quest to help Christians know the security of Christianity briefly talks about what our mindset should be regarding Christ's return.
    - i. It should be a mindset of confidence not shame.
4. Our mindset on the subject of Christ's return?
  - a. First it is not thought of that much I'm afraid.
    - i. When it is it is not thought of in a favorable light, let me explain...
      1. When is the last time you thought about Christ's return and hope it was quickly coming?
    - ii. Hence not in a favorable light. We are more "worried" than "excited" about His coming back and as John points this out, that is not right.
5. Let us therefore examine our "Confidence In Christ's Return."

### I. The Two Goals

- A. First goal is to have confidence when Christ comes again
  1. The word confidence in Greek is "παρρησία" or "parresia."
    - i. "all out-spokenness, i.e. frankness, bluntness, publicity; by impl. assurance:—bold..." (Strong, J., S.T.D., LL.D. (2009). Vol. 1: A Concise Dictionary of the Words in the Greek Testament and The Hebrew Bible (56). Bellingham, WA: Logos Research Systems, Inc.)
    - ii. "to speak boldly, or freely," primarily had reference to speech (see B, below), but acquired the meaning of "being bold, or waxing bold" (Vine, W. E., Unger, M. F., & White, W. (1996). Vol. 2: Vine's Complete Expository Dictionary of Old and New Testament Words (72). Nashville, TN: T. Nelson.)
  2. Thus the word means to have outspoken confidence in Christ's coming.
    - i. Seeing the word in action.
      - a. **Ac 4:13** "Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were uneducated, common men, they were astonished. And they recognized that they had been with Jesus."<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> All Scriptures are taken from the ESV unless otherwise noted.



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- a. This means we must "know" His Word.
  - b. This means we must "keep" His Word.
2. The reason so many lack confidence in Christ's coming is that many Christians do not know the words of Jesus.
  - i. Example: Taking a test.
    - a. If you haven't put the proper effort into knowing the material then you are nervous about the test.
      1. Why, because you don't have confidence in what you know because you don't know the material.
    - b. If you have put the proper effort in and know the material frontwards and backwards you are not nervous or as nervous about the test.
      1. Why, because you have confidence in what you know because you know the material.
  - ii. When we don't know the Bible, we will be apprehensive about Christ's coming.
    - a. Why, because we are ashamed and know we haven't put forth the effort to know Him as we should through His Word.
  - iii. There is an easy solution however...studying the Word of Christ.
    - a. **II Ti 2:15** "Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth." (NKJV)
3. The other reason so many lack confidence in Christ's coming is that many Christians do not keep that which they know of God's Word.
  - i. It isn't enough to know Christ's Word we must keep it as well by being...
    - a. Doers of the Word.
      1. **Mt 7:24-25** "Everyone then who hears these words of mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock. 25 And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on the rock."
    - b. One's that practice the Word.
      1. **I Jn 2:29** "If you know that he is righteous, you may be sure that everyone who practices righteousness has been born of him."
4. Thus to abide in Christ means to know His Word and keep His Word.

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### CONCLUSION

1. The truth is if we know what Jesus has actually taught, it isn't that hard to do what He says.
  - a. **I Jn 5:3** "For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome."
2. Add to that, that if we sin we have access to the blood of Christ through repentance.
  - a. **I Jn 1:9** "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."
3. One can begin to thusly see that one can have complete outspoken confidence when Christ comes back.
4. Question: Do you have confidence or are you ashamed in Christ's return?
  - a. My hope is that you "know" you have eternal life.
    - i. **I Jn 5:13** "I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God that you may know that you have eternal life."
5. Invitation
  - a. For those that are Christians but are not living for Christ repent by confessing your sins to God that He may forgive you and dedicate your life/time back to Him.
    - i. **I Jn 1:7, 9** "But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin...9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."
  - b. For those that are not Christians or for those that think they are Christians and want to know for sure notice what is required to become a child of God or Christian according to God and God only.
    - i. Hear/Study **Rom 10:17; II Tim 2:15**
    - ii. Believe Jesus Is The Christ **Jn 3:16; 8:24**
    - iii. Repent/Turn To God **Ac 17:30; Lk 24:47**
    - iv. Confess Jesus As Lord **Mt 10:32; Rom 10:9**
    - v. Immersed For The Forgiveness of Sins **Ac 2:38; 22:16; I Pt 3:21**
    - vi. Live A Faithful Life **I Jn 1:7; Eph 5:8**