

Treasuring His Word
From the Pastor's Heart:

“Children, it is the last hour; and just as you heard that antichrist is coming, even now many antichrists have arisen; from this we know that it is the last hour... And 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” (1 John 2:18, 28).

If you knew that it was the last hour (season) of your life, what would you do? Hopefully, nothing! Wouldn't it be great if you were already walking with God such that there would be no panic to “get things right”? You would just simply continue doing what you were doing, knowing that your relationship with the Lord has been a great blessing, and that He has been using you to honor Him in Christian living and service day by day.

The above passage says to abide in Him. We are not challenged to abide “in church,” or “in religion,” or in “man's wisdom,” or in “good works.” But we are to abide in the Person of Jesus Christ.

1. What does it mean to abide in Jesus?

Jesus said, “Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, so neither can you unless you abide in Me... By this is My Father glorified, that you bear much fruit, and so prove to be My disciples” (John 15:4, 8). We must draw our life-source from Jesus, or we will have no spiritual life within us!

2. How do I do that?

Jesus said, “If you abide in My word, then you are truly disciples of Mine” (John 8:31). We are so blessed to have the Bible, God's Holy Word. As the Holy Spirit speaks His word to our hearts, and we obey Him, applying His Word to our lives, we prove to be authentic disciples of Christ, true children of God.

3. What does that look like?

“The one who says he abides in Him ought himself to walk in the same manner as He walked” (1 John 2:6). Is this what our lives look like? When we draw our life-source from Jesus, abiding in His Word, walking with Him, we will have a lifestyle that reflects the very life Jesus lived while He was on this earth. We will be “**abiding in Christ.**”

So, again, “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” (1 John 2:28). When we are approached by someone to share with them our faith in Jesus Christ, do we confidently share our experience in Christ with them? Or do we shrink back and direct them to talk to someone else? If you are ashamed to talk about Him today, it is evidence that you'll shrink back from Him when He comes. When Jesus does appear, wouldn't it be great to say, “Lord, this morning when I was rejoicing that I would be walking with You through the day, I had no idea where we'd be walking by the end of the day!” What if it were today?