

“And they heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden. But the Lord God called to the man and said to him, “Where are you?” And he said, “I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, and I hid myself.” Gen 3:8-11

Ever since that day mankind has been hiding from God because of our sin and shame, and God has been relentlessly pursuing a love relationship with us. All of the bible is the story of God’s pursuit of a people that He desperately loves...and God making a way for us to in relationship with Him. We were CREATED to know Him, love Him, and to walk with Him. From the first page of the bible to the last God is making a way to restore that loving relationship. In Jesus words: To ABIDE

Jesus...and John...call that relationship with God...Abiding: Lit = *to remain with; to stay, to dwell with, to be present*
That is what God desires from us...that we remain WITH Him...and yet...just like Adam and Eve...we wander...and hide!

Jesus teaches us about abiding...in His last great message to his disciples...Abiding is the theme...
As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Fathers’ commandments and abide in his love. These things have I spoken to you that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full. John 15:9-11

John echo’s that theme in our passage this morning. And in a few short words tells us: How To Abide...Not Hide!
1 John 2:24 – 28 Pg 862

1. Hold On! Vs 24-25

- To the message you heard from the beginning!
~God came looking for YOU! 1:1-4 That which we have heard...touched handled...
Jesus said: I have come to SEEK and to SAVE the lost
- ~God is willing to forgive YOU! 1:9 If we confess our sins...
- ~God is ON your side: 2:1 You have an advocate (Judge appointed defense)
- ~God paid for YOUR sin 2:2 Propitiation for our sin: :Paid the debt we couldn’t pay
- ~God promises you eternal life...and NO ONE can take it away! 2:25

Illus: John 10:28-29 “No one can snatch them....”

John 3:16

Prodigal son: Father waiting with open arms for the son that walked away

John writes to the church that is struggling and he encourages them...HOLD ON! The promise of God always true...

2. Watch Out! Vs 26

- For those trying to deceive you:

Deceive: Lit = *to cause to roam; (from safety, truth, or virtue):--go astray, deceive, err, seduce, wander, be out of the way*

- The Evil One: Satan is still in the business of tempting the children of God to roam...Go astray, wander
- Those trying that left: False teachers in the church Those went out vs 19
- ~Gnostics: Those with special knowledge BEYOND teachings of Jesus (Late nite TV)
- ~Docetism: Jesus only seemed to be fully human...but was not
- ~Jesus (man) Christ (spirit) different...Came at baptism and left at death
- ~Jewish Christians...Going back to Judaism because of persecution (Other religion: One way!)
- Lust of Flesh: Things that appeal to the flesh
- Lust of Eyes: Things that appeal to the eyes
- Pride of Life: Things that appeal to our pride
- Our own evil desires: James says, every man is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires!

Applic: John says to them...and to us...Watch Out. Things haven’t changed a single bit since the Garden...If anything worse!

3. Listen Up! Vs 27

- To the Anointing ABIDING in you! When you became a child of God, The Holy Spirit came to live within...never left!
You might not be LISTENING to Him... or be DEPENDING on Him...Might not be SURRENDERING to him
But He is there...and He will give you everything you need to ABIDE, If you trust Him and let Him work within
- Here is something you need to understand: The Anointing...EMPOWERS your ABIDING
When you learn to SURRENDER to the guidance of the Holy Spirit living within you...
He will guide you to live the way God would have you live.
He gives you the strength, wisdom, understanding to make the decisions that help you to Abide...Not Hide

Jesus said: “When he comes, he will convict the world of guilt in regard to sin and righteousness and judgment:” Jn 16:8

If you will listen to the HS abiding within your heart, He will guide you when you need to know HOW to abide!

- Convict of guilt: He will let you know when something is wrong!
- Convict of righteousness: He will let you know when something is right!
- Judgement: He will let you know that something is going to displease the Father!

Illus: Had a meeting with a missionary for Samaritans Purse. During conversation, Chaplain: Syria Immediately...something within my spirit said...Nooooooooo...End: Pray for me: Needs wisdom
Felt prompted to say: Might just be me...but when you said might be called up: Holy Spirit: She said...I feel same!
We have to learn HOW to HEAR: That still small quiet voice:
Have you ever learned to read the word...Pray...Then sit quietly before the Lord and listen?

Illus: Remember what Rick Amato said last week about listening..meditating on the truth of God
It occurred to me that when I pray I do all the talking! I don't know anything...talking to one that knows everything
So if I know nothing...He knows everything...Why do I do all the talking....and Not listen to the one who knows!!!!

4. Look Up! Vs 28

- Abide in him so that when he appears we may have confidence

Here John is saying to us: *“Live like Jesus might come back at any moment. Keep your eye on the sky. Look for His return.”*

If we do that the implication is that it will make a difference in how we live day by day, moment by moment.

It is the old adage, *“Would you do that, say that, think that, act that way if you knew Jesus would come back in the middle!”*

Two Ways To Respond To Jesus Return

~Confidence: Lit = *to have assurance, confidence, freedom and/or boldness*

Basically John is saying...if the trumpet were to blow at this very moment...you would welcome His return

~Shrink in Shame: Lit = *to shrink away, or to draw back:* Or, like Adam and Eve: **HIDE!**

John is encouraging us to live in light of the imminent coming of Christ. In God's plan of the age's next event is Return.

John is saying, if you live that way, Abiding in Christ, then you will have the right response to His return.

In fact, he uses a specific grammatical device to point out: This is the purpose of Abiding In Him!

And, John is saying: If you keep reminding yourself that He can come at any moment...Make you consider how you live!

CONCL: So: How Do You Abide This Week....and NOT Hide?

What are the specific things you can DO that will help you Fulfill the direction of John...and Jesus: Abide...

Probably can't do ALL of these at once...but pick two or three...and PRACTICE them...

- Know and Believe the Truth: “That which you have heard from Beginning:” Are you hearing truth?
- Obey and Live the Truth: It is one thing to know it...quite another to live it out
Are you loving your brother..forgiving your brother,
Are you NOT loving the world...things of world:

Illus: Some of you...need to break up with the world...been hooked up way to long!

- Learn to Listen to the Holy Spirit: He is in there...He is talking...He is convicting
Problem isn't He's not talking...You aren't listening!
Get up, say a prayer, read a verse...LAST TIME YOU THINK of Him all day long
Get to the end of the day ...wonder...Why did I do all those wrong things:
Didn't ask Him Wisdom; Didn't ask for Strength to resist; Didn't ask for His help!

“It is not enough merely to have heard the it and agreed with the message in time past. The message must continue to be present and active in the lives of those who have heard it. They must continually call it to mind and depend on the power of the Holy Spirit to help them live it out daily.”