

The Coming Day

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I. Introduction.

- A. Text: I John 2:28.
- B. John is concerned with how to maintain Christianity in a hostile world.
- C. Religious error always arises out of the church to attack the deity of Jesus Christ.
- D. The Word must always be held together with the Spirit in balance.

II. A face-to-face encounter with Christ lies ahead for the believer in Christ.

- A. The hope of the return of Christ underlies every page of the New Testament.
- B. Some view this as a present experience that concurs with the believer's experience at death.
- C. The meeting with Christ is no further away from us than the day of our death and may be closer than that.
- D. The believer will see Jesus as He is.

III. The alternatives during the day of Jesus.

- A. To have confidence before Him.
- B. To shrink in shame before Him.
- C. We must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ. (II Corinthians 5)
- D. These alternatives are necessary because we must see things as they really are.
 - 1. The foundation is Christ. (I Corinthians 3)
 - 2. What we weave in time, we wear in eternity.
- E. One will only experience confidence or shame--not both.
 - 1. Things that make one shameful: indecent actions, wrongful attitudes, neglected opportunities.
 - 2. Shame is a sense that we do not belong that result in a desire to hide.
 - 3. Things that make one confident: when one knows what one is doing and when one has an undisclosed resource.
- F. John's resource for confidence: abiding in Jesus.

1. This is fellowship with Jesus.
2. This means to depend fully upon Christ in whatever one does.
 - a. It means that one faces Jesus' evaluation of the past. (I Corinthians 11)
 - b. One must accept Jesus' provision for the present--the battle is already won.
 - c. One must recognize the undisclosed resource within--the Holy Spirit.
 - d. One must trust Jesus' assessment for the future.

Application questions:

1. Why is knowing that a face-to-face encounter with Jesus lies beyond death important for the believer?

2. Is shame a powerful motivator in our society? How have you seen people hide because of shame?

3. What does it mean to abide in Jesus? Explain.
