

LIVING RIGHT IN A WRONG WORLD
OUR LORD'S RETURN: WHAT THEN?
1 JOHN 2:28–3:3



The Heart of the Matter

The doctrine of the return of Jesus Christ is no recent fad. It is part of the body of truth taught not only by Jesus Himself but also by His apostles. Paul was especially fond of the subject and often wrote of it in his letters. He used four terms to describe it: *parousia* (Christ's presence), *phanerosis* (His appearing), *epiphaneia* (His epiphany), and *apokalupsis* (His revelation). John used those first two terms in the section of 1 John we're looking at today. In fact, John used the phrase "when [Christ] appears" twice in these five verses (2:28; 3:2). It is clear that John was urging all of us, his readers, to think and plan ahead—to realize that the Lord's return is an inescapable reality which we can face with assurance, not shame. We are to be filled with anticipation, knowing that "we will see Him just as He is." What a grand hope!



Discovering the Way

1. Paul's Explanation of What's Ahead (1 Thessalonians 4:13–18)

Paul explained that the coming of Christ is an actual reality, with a known order of events, leading to a comforting truth.

2. John's Analysis of Christ's Appearing (1 John 2:28–3:3)

John analyzed the coming of Christ by giving us an important command (abide), a reassuring reminder (confidence), an outburst of wonder (love), a glorious promise (likeness), and a fixed hope (purity).



Starting Your Journey

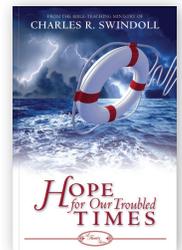
Anticipating the imminent return of Christ is an effective motivator to abide in Christ and keep your life free of sin.



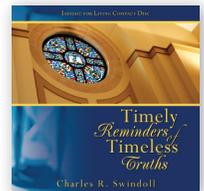
Tools for Digging Deeper



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