

Communion Sunday

November 2, 2025

We are the Royal Family and we are here to obey our Lord's command to partake of the elements in order to remember our Lord Jesus Christ.

I am going to show a section of the Basic Spiritual Skills that Dr. Robert Dean taught 11 years ago.

We now get into the main body of the epistle which extends to 1 John 4:19 and the main message is that the believer must mature to the level of loving God (*Deuteronomy 30:16*) as loving one another (*John 15:17*) if he is going to be bold before the Judgment Seat of Christ. He must reach a level of spiritual maturity in order to be bold before the Judgment Seat of Christ. This begins and is introduced in the first verse of this section.

1 John 2:28 “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.”

John is expressing himself and his love for the congregation: by teaching them what is necessary to advance to spiritual maturity. He saw them as those who are under his pastoral care. Then we have the primary command, and this is the primary command of the Gospel of John: “abide in Him.” This is a present active indicative of the verb “meno”, a word relating to ongoing fellowship, continued intimacy

with the Lord Jesus Christ based on the Word of God, and application of His Word.

This introduces the main idea, the main theme, of the section from **1 John 2:28-4:19**. Why is it important to abide in Him? We don't just abide in Him simply to grow and glorify God; there is more to it than that. There are many dimensions to that and the one that John is emphasizing here is for the purpose that "when He appears, we may have confidence."

There are two words that are important to understand here. The first is the present passive subjunctive of the verb phaneroo [*fanerow*] which is often used of either the Rapture or the Second Coming. The other is the last word in the English, "coming," which is the Greek word parousia [*parousia*]. These two words are words that are general terms for the coming of Christ. Context is going to determine whether they refer to the Rapture of the church or whether they refer to the Second Coming of Christ. The context here is that John is addressing church age believers.

Why would we shrink away from Him in shame? The reason is that the event that immediately follows the Rapture for the church age believer is the judgment seat of Christ. This is explained in two key passages in the New testament. The first is in:

2 Corinthians 5:10 ***"For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may be***

recompensed for his deeds in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or useless (phaulos)."

This does not refer to our eternal destiny, that is already settled; this has to do with our roles and responsibilities in the Millennial kingdom, with rewards for spiritual growth. As we advance to spiritual maturity that is going to impact and affect the function of our priesthood—witnessing, giving, and all of the other things that relate to our priesthood—but our rewards at the judgment seat of Christ are not based on that, they are based on our spiritual growth!

2 Corinthians 5:6-7 “Therefore, being always of good courage, and knowing that while we are at home in the body we are absent from the Lord—7) for we walk by faith, not by sight...”

That is the principle of the spiritual life; we are to walk by faith and not by sight. This is trust in the Word of God. Faith means that the Word of God is more real to us than our experience, our feelings, than our circumstances; and if the Word of God is more real to us than the events of our lives, then we are walking by faith and not by sight.

8) “We are of good courage, I say, and prefer rather to be absent from the body and to be at home with the Lord.”

This is our spiritual skill or stressbuster and what we call a Personal Sense of Our Eternal Destiny. We know where we are headed. We know that our citizenship is in heaven, we know that we have an Eternal Destiny, that our destiny

is to rule and reign with Jesus Christ, and therefore because our focus is on heaven we want to be there. But we understand that there is a purpose for our life and time here on earth, it is a training ground and where we are developing our spiritual maturity so that we have the capacity and the ability to rule and reign with Him during the Millennial kingdom. There is a purpose to this; it is like boot camp in the military. How well we do is going to determine what our position is after the judgment seat of Christ.

9) *“Therefore we also have as our ambition, whether at home or absent, to be pleasing to Him.”*
