

In Christ (Bilingual)

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Preacher: Ivy Wong

[0:00] ■■■■■Hello everyoneLet us pray before we beginDear Heavenly Father, thank you for your grace that we may come here to worship youBut we ask you to rest our heart in this hot weatherSo we may listen to your preachingAnd that we will be able to live out your word in our livesPray this in Jesus' name, AmenJust before Christmas, Ben invited me to see a movieHe says there's a movie that he really really wanted to see

And that he says there's a movie that he really really wanted to see This is what I said to him when he first invited me And that he said I'm so busy now, especially that Christmas is coming Going to see a few days later A friend of his saw the movie and recommended to him He said that this movie is spectacular and it's really worth seeing So he decided to invite me again This time I said You know, we've already spent so much money this Christmas And we'll have to spend over \$30 to see this movie Let's not go A few days passed

And the trailers of this movie began showing on TV And there were many positive reviews of this movie on the internet Use,
he [REDACTED] Ay, [REDACTED] So he came over again And
said, let's go and see it I really really want to see it Plus there's some scenes in it that
parallels the Bible This is what I said Ay, I'm not sure He even sent the Bible I thought to
myself Goodness, he's even playing the Bible card So long You
can [REDACTED] After all that, can you guess what movie it is?

[illegible]

A few weeks ago While I was cooking Ben was watching news On the Phoenix Channel And I heard the reporters say that North China was experiencing severe snow storms Many places had temperatures of 30 degrees under zero And traffic was at a standstill Even the sea water was freezing up So I quickly ran out of the kitchen to see exactly what was going on But the news has already moved onto the weather report I heard the anchor saying this 2012

[5 : 11] While it is still snowing hard in the north People should not be alarmed This year's relatively heavy snow has nothing to do with the movie 2012 I thought to myself I wouldn't even have connected the twof she didn't mention the movie But now that she has said it I realized that many people must have been making this connection Or else there wouldn't be a reason for her to say it A week later During another news broadcast 30

If you are ready then facing this day will be easy And it will be a beginning of a wonderful new life Yet if you're not ready then that day will be a disaster that you couldn't endure So how should we prepare ourselves How should we prepare the oil So that we can be like the five wise virgins who will joyfully welcome Jesus on the day of his return Let us look at today's passage

John says in verse 28 And now little children abide in him so that when he is revealed we may have confidence that not that not be put to shame before him at his coming When he is revealed he is alluding to the return of Christ the end of the day not be put to shame before him means that we may stand firm before him at the time of judgment face to face without shame and without regret with no need to hide from him but joyfully facing him

John tells us that there is one way we can face that day without fear and that is to abide in the Christ in Lord how do we abide in the Lord first we need to be righteous if you know that he is righteous you may be sure that everyone who does right has been born of him it says that we know God is righteous and indeed we do know because we read it in the Bible and we learn it through our personal experiences it also says everyone who does right has been born of him what does this mean those who does right are people who have been baptized Christian because righteousness is one important character of a born again Christian but after they believe in Jesus and receive absolution for their sins and after being baptized they will have a new life and become a new creation and this new life is connected to Christ and therefore he will live to be more and more like Jesus everyone who does right has been born of him born of him indicates a change of identity in a Christian

God created man the relationship here is of the creator and his creation but Christians have one extra identity the identity of being God's children it's a relationship of inheritance in the same way that our looks or our personalities are similar to that of our parents since we have this relationship with God we need to imitate God and be righteous what is righteousness Mikah 6 verse 8 says that we need to act justly have mercy and walk humbly as our God when Israel made offerings to God of money and time

[15 : 28] God told them that acting justly was far more important in fact righteousness is an important element in maintaining stability in our society and personal relationships with each other God asked us to act justly this means that we must live to the code to obey all the truth that we understand simply put it means to live according to the bible

God asks us to act justly it means we need to restrain our own behavior with righteousness and respect others in a righteous way we need to firmly remember that here God is asking us to act justly not just to feel righteous but do nothing about it we need to apply biblical principles into all facets of our lives in personal communication with others in study or at work or dealing with our own lives the second key of abiding in Christ is to persist in our duties as God's children

John is not only telling us about God's great love for his act in transforming us from mere creatures to his children he's also emphasizing the fact that we truly are his children the reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him this means that if they knew the father they would know us and this reiterates our relationship with God we are a group of people that is closely bound to God when a person comes to know God they would recognize us for what we are in the same vein a person can come to know God through our actions

We are God's children today We are distinguished yet with this status also comes our responsibilities as his children honor The Ten Commandments teach us to honor our parents It means to bring glory to our parents It follows that as God's children We need to bring glory to God This is not a difficult thing It is something that we can do in our daily lives For example we can after we get up each morning we can pray and thank and praise God

And not to do anything in our studies or work that will bring shame to his name For example Cheating in an exam or being lazy on the job Recently a young person was sharing her experiences with me She's a student who's having a hard time studying while working at the same time When her boss asked her to take the Sunday shift She told him that she is a Christian and would not work on Sundays but would go to church Through her actions she has glorified God She showed her boss that Sunday is a day of worshiping God

[22 : 40] She also showed that although she was not well off As a Christian She is able to uphold the principle of attending church On Sundays And God's name is lifted high She also told me something wonderful She also told me She said that because someone could not take the Saturday shift She ended up doing two And she got paid more while not working on Sundays This is what is intriguing about God He pours down more blessings when we do love him

Glorifying Our Heavenly Father is our responsibility as his children John continues to say that what we will be has not yet been revealed He is pointing towards the time of Jesus' return What will the world be like during those times It is unknown It also says that when he is revealed we will be like him for we will see him as he is Jesus

It is only when we have this aspiration can we achieve it in our daily lives

We need purity in our soul and our spirit and our actions By soul and spirit I mean our thoughts The mistakes in our actions are brought about by wrong thoughts in our head These thoughts lead us to sin Therefore when we do pray every day to share our thoughts with God On one hand we can reflect on them While on the other hand we can ask God to guide us back onto the right track When we pray The Holy Spirit moves to show us what we should and shouldn't do

Purity in our actions means not to do what is shameful to God [REDACTED]
And I felt very strongly towards this [REDACTED] I must confess
that I have done things in the past which brought shame to God [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] One Friday night I was driving some girls home
after Bible study [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Josie [REDACTED] We were going to Josie's house that night
[REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Esther I don't remember all the girls in my
car except Esther [REDACTED] [REDACTED] We had six people all together while
my car could only carry five [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

[31:03] Because I felt lazy and I didn't want to take an extra trip So I decided to take all six people together
 [31:03] [REDACTED]
 [31:03] [REDACTED]
 [31:03] [REDACTED] So I followed my instinct And I turned into a side street
 [31:03] [REDACTED] It was so dark Because there were no street lamps And I didn't know the way So I drove round and round [REDACTED]
 [31:03] [REDACTED]
 [31:03] [REDACTED]

I failed to be a good role model for them And I also put myself in this sorry situation ██████████
 When I got home I deeply grieved for my sin
 And asked God for forgiveness ██████████ ██████████ ██████████ And I
 resolved to never under any circumstance To do something like this again ██████████
 ██████████ ██████████ And truth be told I have not made the same mistake again
 ██████████ ██████████ ██████████ This heavily affected me in
 the ways I behave in other situations I often remind myself to be alert to actions that might
 bring shame to God's name ██████████ ██████████ ██████████ ██████████
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If you have done things in the past that were shameful to God Then ask for forgiveness today And resolve never to do it again ■■■■■■■■■■ ■■■■■■■■■■
■■■■■■■■■■ ■■■■■■■■■■ ■■■■■■■■■■ As long as you deeply regret what you
have done God will surely give you the strength not to do it again
■■■■■■■■■■■■■■■■ So we might begin a life of purity ■■■ ■■■■■■■■
■■■■■■■■■■ ■■■■■■■■■■ Acting justly Persisting in our duties as God's children
And living a life of purity These are the three key things that enable us to abide in Christ
Today you probably feel that it is difficult to do all of the above

[illegible]

Below be