

# Life in the Word

*Cornerstone Sermon-based Life Group Lesson*



Sermon Series: **1 John Series**

Sermon Title: **Preparing for Christ's Coming**

Scripture Passage: **1 John 2:28-3:3**

## **Getting Started** *Sharing from personal experience*

Some Christians are taught that Jesus will return before the Great Tribulation, some are taught that He will return afterward or even during that time period. And of course, many Christians are not taught anything about the return of Christ. What about you? Prior to coming to Cornerstone, what were you taught—if anything—about the return of Jesus?

## **Observation** *Discovering the context*

What do the following passages of scripture have in common?

John 15:4-7; John 15:10; 1 John 2:6; 1 John 3:24; John 8:31-36; John 2:28; 1 John 3:6

According to John 15:5 a follower of Jesus bears much spiritual fruit by being engaged in what?

Who “produces” the fruit of the Spirit in a believer’s life? (Hint: see Galatians 5:22-23)

Who do you think “bears” the fruit of the Spirit? Read Matthew 5:15. Do you see a possible parallel between John 15:5 and Matthew 5:15? If so, what is it?

In your own words, what does it mean to “abide” in Christ and how do you “abide” in Christ?

According to 1 John 2:28, why should believers be intentional abiders?

### **Interpretation** Discovering the meaning

*Consider the wisdom in the following from Oswald Chambers (My Utmost for His Highest. March 26th devotion)*

*God makes us pure by an act of His sovereign grace, but we still have something that we must carefully watch. It is through our bodily life coming in contact with other people and other points of view that we tend to become tarnished. Not only must our “inner sanctuary” be kept right with God, but also the “outer courts” must be brought into perfect harmony with the purity God gives us through His grace. Our spiritual vision and understanding is immediately blurred when our “outer court” is stained. If we want to maintain personal intimacy with the Lord Jesus Christ, it will mean refusing to do or even think certain things. And some things that are acceptable for others will become unacceptable for us.*

What gets in the way or distracts you from living out a consistent intimate relationship with Christ?

What types of things do you find you must refuse to engage in or even think about as you desire to stay pure in your walk with the Lord?

What does it mean to be a new creation in Christ and that the “old man” has passed away?

Many Christians struggle with 2 Corinthians 5:17. They struggle with various addictions, habits, and character issues that make them doubt how it is possible that they actually are a new creation in Christ. Of course, this can even lead to doubt about one’s salvation and if the Holy Spirit truly has taken residence in them. This dilemma is not uncommon. So, how would you disciple someone who struggles with this?

## **Core Truths** Discovering Biblical truth

In your own words, share at least one core truth God has shown you in this week's study and why it is timely or significant for you.

## **Practice Makes Progress** Putting knowledge into practice

What action is the Lord prompting you to take this week as a result of being in His Word?

## **Worth Memorizing**

Scripture: *Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is.*

*1 John 3:2*

## **Prayer Time**

How can your Life Group pray for you this week?

## **Praise Time**

How has God blessed you and answered prayer this week?