

In Christ (Bilingual)

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[0 : 0 0] Hello everyone Let us pray before we begin Dear Heavenly Father, thank you for your grace that we may come here to worship you But we ask you to rest our heart in this hot weather So we may listen to your preaching And that we will be able to live out your word in our lives Pray this in Jesus' name, Amen Just before Christmas, Ben invited me to see a movie He 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 Ay, 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 After all that, can you guess what movie it is?

Just 2012 This is a disaster movie, 2012 I said, I know that the end of the world will probably look very similar to the scenes from this movie We're not going to see it Let's not go Let's not go And in the end, we gave up But for a long time, the scenes from that movie kept playing in my head I could only feel relief after the movie had stopped

showing Ben

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 : 1 1] 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 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

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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 at the end of the day. We should not be put to shame before him, which 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, the 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 do right are people who have been baptized Christians 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 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 worshipping 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 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. And I felt very strongly towards this. I must confess that I have done things in the past which brought shame to God.

One Friday night I was driving some girls home after Bible study. Josie. We were going to Josie's house that night. Esther. I don't remember all the girls in my car except Esther. We had six people all together while my car could only carry five.

[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.

So I followed my instinct. And I turned into a side street. It was so dark. Because there were no street lamps. And I didn't know the way. So I drove round and round.

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.

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. And you'll be right. They're not easy. Yet when we relive the sins from the movie 2012. We'll feel that acting justly. Persisting in our duties as God's children. And living a life of purity. Are necessary.

When we have the heart of determination. God will give us the strength. My example before. Of overloading my car. That wasn't my first time. I've taught myself in the past not to do it again.

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