**Lessons from a Lockdown**

**Volume II**

Rommel J. Casis

**Day 68**

**1 John 2:28-29**

And now, dear children, continue in him, so that when he appears we may be confident and unashamed before him at his coming.

If you know that he is righteous, you know that everyone who does what is right has been born of him.

***Questions for Personal Reflection:***

1. What does it mean to continue in him?
2. If Jesus appears today to judge the world, will I be confident and unashamed? Why?
3. What do I need to do to be confident to meet Jesus today?
4. Have I been doing what is right? Would Jesus say I am righteous? Why?
5. Is there anything I am doing or not doing, that I should be ashamed of?

***Insight:***

We should continue in him. What does this mean? John says that if what we have heard from the beginning remains in us, we will also remain in the Son and in the Father (1 John 2:24). He also says that “[w]hoever claims to live in him must live as Jesus did” (1 John 2:6). Furthermore, “[n]o one who lives in him keeps on sinning” (1 John 3:6). Finally, it is the one who keeps God’s commands who live in him, and he in them (1 John 3:24). So to be “in him” is to live like Jesus, knowing God’s commands and obeying them. This is what being a Christian means and we should continue doing this. We should not stop. There is no time out to being like Christ. Being in him should be a constant reality for us. Anyone can act like Jesus on Sundays and midweek devotionals. But only a Christian can be like Christ everyday even when no one (except God) is looking.

We continue or remain in him because we want to be ready when he appears. Someday, Jesus will appear and we will be held accountable for what we have done with our lives. Are we ready for him? Things can happen in our lives which can throw us off. We can get discouraged when our efforts don’t bring the results we want. We can get disappointed when no one becomes a Christian even if we share the gospel with all our hearts. We can get depressed when others do not show appreciation for what we do for them. We can get overwhelmed by other people’s expectations of us. We can get stressed with problems and the daily demands of life. Sometimes we fail or grow weary so that we are tempted to stop or even just pause our discipleship for a while. But we shouldn’t. We should always be ready to face God.

Have we kept ourselves ready for Jesus during this pandemic? How has the disruption in our lives affected our obedience to God?

God is righteous and those who are born of God also do what is right. There will always be unrighteousness in the world and we may be tempted to be unrighteous as well. We can be tempted to cheat on our taxes, misrepresent our products to our customers, lie to our superiors, hide from those we owe money to, bribe government officials, violate regulations, expect to be paid work we did not do, neglect our children, be too lazy to do household chores, refuse to forgive our spouse, disrespect our parents, overlook the poor, stop reaching out to the lost, avoid discipling, focus only on ourselves and the like. There are many ways we can be unrighteous in a day. People around us commit these acts every day. But we do what is right even if the people around us do not. We choose to be righteous because God is righteous.

In our shame we can walk away from God. Some people have left the church out of shame. It is tragic when we choose to walk away from God instead of dealing with our shame. Is the cause of our shame more valuable to us than our relationship with God? We should get rid of the things that we are ashamed of.

Being righteous in an unrighteous world is very difficult. But Noah did it. The Bible says, “Noah was a righteous man, blameless among the people of his time, and he walked faithfully with God” (Genesis 6:9). Noah had no church but he remained righteous and blameless despite the sinfulness of the rest of the world. Because of his righteousness he was able to save his family. We do not have to give in to the temptations around us even if we are alone. We do not have to follow the unrighteous example of others.

Righteousness gives us confidence. It is worth the sacrifice. The rewards of righteousness are worth far more than its price.

We should continue in Jesus and remain in righteousness.