The purpose for Jesus Christ returning to this earth is to bring to its close the story of human history upon this earth and to judge every person who has ever lived. It will close with the righteous being with God and Jesus forever

28And now, little children, abide in him; that, when he shall appear, we may have confidence, and not be ashamed before him at his coming.[[1]](#footnote-1)

1. We believers are to have confidence before Christ at His Second Coming.
   1. The noun “confidence” (Greek *parresia*) is used 31 times in the N.T., 13 of which are found in the writings of John.
      1. It was originally used in classical Greek to describe the right of a free citizen to speak in public meetings.
      2. It later came to express the idea of courage, confidence, or boldness especially before important people (Arndt and Gingrich 635, 636).
   2. In this context, the idea is that the believer may come into the presence of God freely and without fear based on a right relationship with Him.
      1. According to John the right relationship is achieved by confessing Jesus as the Christ and abiding in Him.
      2. Smalley (130) makes the case that this is not an improper confidence because God Himself made it possible through Jesus.[[2]](#footnote-2)
   3. Part of the emphasis is on how we will respond when Jesus comes back for His children.
      1. There is encouragement to live in a way that will enable us to freely enter into His presence on a daily basis by prayer and fellowship.
      2. Living this way will enable us to rejoice at His coming and not be ashamed of the condition of our lives or our service for Him when we stand before Him.
   4. Part of the emphasis is on the believers’ attitudes while anticipating His return.
      1. One of the great comforts that believers have is in knowing that the present situation we are in, regardless of how difficult or painful, is temporary.
         1. Jesus Christ may return at any moment and we will begin to enjoy the blessings of our faith.
         2. If we live in anticipation of His return and die before that occurs, then we are ushered into that reward sooner.

1. [*The Holy Bible: King James Version*](https://ref.ly/logosres/kjv1900?ref=BibleKJV.1Jn2.28&off=0&ctx=ll+abide+in+%7C%7C%EF%BB%BFhim.+~28%C2%A0And+now%2c+little+c). (2009). (Electronic Edition of the 1900 Authorized Version., 1 Jn 2:28). Bellingham, WA: Logos Research Systems, Inc. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Marberry, T. L., Shaw Craig. (2010). [Commentary on the Books of 1, 2, 3 John](https://ref.ly/logosres/rhbc83jn?ref=Bible.1Jn2.24-29&off=5529&ctx=g+(Kistemaker+288).%0a~The+noun+%E2%80%9Cconfidence). In R. E. Picirilli (Ed.), *1, 2, 3 John & Revelation* (First Edition, p. 52). Nashville, TN: Randall House. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)