

Living that Leaves a Life-Giving Legacy

No Fear When He Appears

What difference does it make that a confident view of death and judgment is on our radar or that we should give thought to it today? 2 Thessalonians 1:5-12; Matthew 16:22; 2 Corinthians 5:10; John 5:24

John's letter to the church reveals why believers can have confidence in their salvation, assurance of forgiveness, and liberty in approaching the day of judgment. **NO FEAR WHEN HE APPEARS!**

By this is love perfected with us, so that we may have confidence for the day of judgment, because as he is so also are we in this world. ¹⁸ There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear. For fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not been perfected in love. ¹⁹ We love because he first loved us. ²⁰ If anyone says, "I love God," and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen cannot love God whom he has not seen. ²¹ And this commandment we have from him: whoever loves God must also love his brother.

1 John 4:17-21 (ESV)

Question. Have you received God's declared and demonstrated love for you? (Last week's message)

Question. Are you being transformed, as His child, into a Christ-like lover of others?

Three keys to confidence – No Fear When He Appears!

1. **We know we are loved.** vs. 19 "he first loved us"
2. **We know we are Christ-like.**
 - a. Christ-likeness yields "perfected love".
 - i. What is not: Flawless perfection or an internal perfecting of God's love through the elimination of inadequacies.
 - ii. What it is: God's love in us attaining its goal, coming into completion, action. Growth – growing in love of God that brings confidence (4:17-19), Honesty (4:20-21), Joyful obedience (5:1-3), and victory (5:4-5)
 - b. Christ-likeness yields present day impact. "As he is so also are we".

- i. Christ's love: What is Christ like?
 - ii. Our Christ-like love: What are we like? What characterizes our beliefs and behaviors? Read Ephesians 4 and 5 and note the contrast between believers and non-believers
- c. Christ-likeness casts out fear: "There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear"

"No believer's love has ever been so perfect as to banish fear entirely; but every believer experiences that as his love increases his fear diminishes."

Rev. Plummer

- d. Christ-likeness yields no room for hypocrisy/duplicity: Matthew 6

3. **We know what is expected.** "And this is the commandment we have from him."

More than words... Actions that speak louder than words (1 John 3:18-19; Matthew 5:7; 6:14; 7:1; James 2:13)

Live with confidence in light of His coming

Where might you strengthen your abiding relationship with Christ?

Who might encourage you as you seek to intentionally remain in His love?

Do you have a plan on how to remain....?

