

1. LifeLines on 6/19 will be Isaiah 55:11.

2. We'll meet during June, break during July & August, & resume September 11, after Labor Day.

LifeLines June 12, 2023

Today's Scripture: 1 Verse

1 John 4:17

**Love has been perfected *among us in this:*
that we may have boldness on the day of judgment,
because as *He is, so are we in this world.***

WHY WE'RE HERE

2 Timothy 3:16-17, All scripture is inspired by God & is useful for teaching, for reproof, for correction, & for training in righteousness, so that everyone who belongs to God may be proficient, equipped for every good work.

CONTEXT

1 John was written (in Greek) probably in Ephesus between 95-110 AD. John offered insight regarding the source of love & its impact, even at the time of our judgment. Jesus said His followers were to be recognized by their love. Godly love is the most powerful evidence of our being born from above or "born again." Abiding in Christ & God's love gives us confidence & boldness, even on the Day of Judgment. This confidence & boldness are found *not in ourselves*. The Source of our confidence & boldness is the Godhead.

DIFFERENT VERSIONS (Versions not listed are similar to the NRSV.)

AMP

In this *union & fellowship* with Him, love is completed & perfected with us, so that we may have confidence in the Day of Judgment with assurance & boldness to face Him; because as He is, so are we in this world.

ASV

Herein is love made perfect with us, that we may have boldness in the Day of Judgment; because as He is, even so are we in this world.

CEB

This is how love has been perfected in us, so that we can have confidence on the Judgment Day, because we are exactly the same as God is in this world.

CEV (Contemporary English Version)

If we truly love others & live as Christ did in this world, we won't be worried about the Day of Judgment.

CJB (Complete Jewish Bible)

Here is how love has been brought to maturity with us: as the Messiah is, so are we in the world. This gives us confidence for the Day of Judgment.

GNT

Love is made perfect in us in order that we may have courage on the Judgment Day; & we will have it because our life in this world is the same as Christ's.

GW

God's love has reached its goal in us. So we look ahead with confidence to the Day of Judgment. While we are in this world, we are exactly like Him with regard to love.

MSG

God is love. When we take up permanent residence in a life of love, we live in God & God lives in us. This way, love has the run of the house, becomes at home & mature in us, so that we're free of worry on Judgment Day – our standing in the world is identical with Christ's.

NCV

This is how love is made perfect in us: that we can be without fear on the day God judges us, because in this world we are like Him.

NIV

This is how love is made complete among us so that we will have confidence on the Day of Judgment: In this world we are like Jesus.

NLT (New Living Translation)

And as we live in God, our love grows more perfect. So we will not be afraid on the Day of Judgment, but we can face Him with confidence because we live like Jesus here in this world.

NLV

Love is made perfect in us when we are not ashamed as we stand before Him on the day He judges. For we know that our life in this world is His life lived in us.

TLB

And as we live with Christ, our love grows more perfect & complete; so we will not be ashamed & embarrassed at the Day of Judgment, but can face Him with confidence & joy because He loves us & we love Him, too.

SELAH

BREAKING DOWN THE VERSE

Love has been perfected among us in this... God's perfect love, living in us, is developed in us *until it is perfected*. Our love for Him & for each other has been made perfect *because of His* perfect love for us. This is no credit to us. It's an act of His Divine love, mercy & grace as we are saved by grace through our faith.

His love is perfected in us as it reproduces itself each time we engage in active love toward others. Seeing us love each other reminds God of His Son's love for others when He was on earth. Love is a *family trait* in God's family.

that we may have boldness on the day of judgment... This boldness comes from knowing we are one with Him. We abide in Him & He in us. He will not condemn those who know Him & for whom He died. Our identity for this boldness is rooted in Jesus.

because as He is... How is Jesus now? Glorified! Justified! Righteous! Bold! Sitting at the right hand of God! John is affirming our likeness to the risen Christ *now* – in His heavenly life, reign & glory!

so are we... Christians are intended to be Christ's living likeness. Because nothing separates us from the love of God in Christ Jesus, He is in us & we are in Him, joined, ONE! We are joined to God & Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit through our faith, our love, according to God's design & pleasure. Our lives are permeated with the Divine.

In the Spirit, we *are* the righteousness of God in Christ Jesus. We're as righteous as Jesus is *in our spirit* if we're born again from above. Jesus has become *our* righteousness.

in this world... This is a key phrase. Is it possible for our earthly being to resemble the radiant glory of Jesus in heaven? (Ref. John 9:5 below.) While we're in this world, we are to do as He told us – *abide in Him*. In us is planted *the* Foundation & Cornerstone, every seed from the Word of God (which is why studying The Word is so important), & the power of the Holy Spirit (who teaches us & reminds us of everything we've been taught). Our spirit, soul & body have everything we need *in this world* to see us into the next. We are fastened to, attached to Christ. He is in us. He gives us power to be like Him. We are primed & prepared to appear before the throne of God & the Bema Judgment Seat of Christ. In Christ, we are ready!

SELAH

RELATED VERSES (Add other related verses as you think of them.)

Matthew 5:14a, "You are the light of the world."

John 5:24, "Very truly, I tell you, anyone who hears My word & believes Him who sent Me has eternal life, & does not come under judgment, but has passed from death to life."

John 8:12, Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows Me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life."

John 13:34-35, "I give you a new commandment that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another."

John 15:4, "Abide in Me as I abide in you."

John 15:9, "As the Father has loved Me, so I have loved you; abide in My love."

John 17:22-24, "The glory that You have given Me I have given them, so that they may be one as We are One. I in them & You in Me, that they may become completely one, so that the world may know that You have sent Me & have loved them even as You have loved Me. Father, I desire that those also, whom You have given Me, may be with Me where I am, to see My glory, which You have given Me because You loved Me before the foundation of the world."

Romans 1:16, For I am not ashamed of the gospel; it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who has faith, to the Jew first & also to the Greek.

Romans 8:1, There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.

Romans 8:9-11, But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to Him. But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. If the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through His Spirit that dwells in you.

Romans 8:17, And, if children, then heirs, heirs of God & joint heirs with Christ – if, in fact, we suffer with Him so that we may also be glorified with Him.

Romans 12:2, Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God – what is good & acceptable & perfect.

1 Corinthians 13:12, For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known.

1 Corinthians 15:50, What I am saying brothers & sisters, is this: flesh & blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable.

1 Corinthians 15:53, For this perishable body must put on imperishability, & this mortal body must put on immortality.

2 Corinthians 3:15-18, Indeed, to this very day whenever Moses is read, a veil lies over their minds; but when one turns to the Lord, the veil is removed. (Do you need an explanation of this?) Now, the Lord is the Spirit, & where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. And all of us, with unveiled faces, seeing the glory of the Lord as though reflected in a mirror, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another, for this comes from the Lord, the Spirit. (Let's be sure everyone gets this!)

2 Corinthians 4:18, Because we look not at what can be seen but at what cannot be seen; for what can be seen is temporary, but what cannot be seen is eternal.

2 Corinthians 5:10, For all of us must appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive recompense for what has been done in the body, whether good or evil. (In Greek, this *judgment seat* refers to the *bema seat* of judges in the arena. This was the seat where the judge sat to present awards to the victors, not to punish anyone. When Christians appear before the *bema seat* of Christ, it will be to reward them for their works. These *aren't* works that get us *into* heaven – only faith does that!)

2 Corinthians 5:21, For our sake He made Him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God.

Ephesians 1:3, Blessed be the God & Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in heavenly places.

Ephesians 1:11, In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance, having been destined according to the purpose of Him who accomplishes all things according to His counsel & will;

Ephesians 1:13, In Him you also, when you had heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, & had believed in Him, were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit; this is the pledge of our inheritance toward redemption as God's own people, to the praise of His glory.

Colossians 2:9-10, For in Him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily, & you have come to fullness in Him, who is the head of every ruler & authority.

1 Thessalonians 5:23-24, May the God of peace Himself sanctify you entirely; & may your spirit & soul & body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The One who has called you is faithful & He will do this.

Hebrews 4:16, Let us therefore approach the throne of grace with boldness, so that we may receive & find grace to help in time of need.

James 2:22, You see that faith was active along with his (speaking of Abraham) works, & faith was brought to completion by the works.

1 John 2:6, Whoever says, "I abide in Him," ought to walk just as He walked.

1 John 3:2, Beloved, we are God's children now; what we will be has not yet been revealed. What we do know is this: when He is revealed, we will be like Him, for we will see Him as He is.

1 John 4:15-16, God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, & they abide in God. So we have known & believe the love that God has for us. God is love, & those who abide in love abide in God, & God abides in them.

1 John 4:18, There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, & whoever fears has not reached perfection in love.

1 John 4:21, The commandment we have from Him is this: those who love God must love their brothers & sisters also.

Revelation 20:15, And anyone whose name was not found written in the book of life was thrown into the lake of fire.

SUMMARY

Our growing love for God enables our confident anticipation of Judgment Day. Believers who grow & mature in their faith need not fear how God will evaluate them. Jesus took the final exam on our behalf. God has forgiven us through *His* perfect love.

Because we are believers, God's Spirit *is in us*. Grasp that fact. This is the same Spirit that raised Christ from the dead. Our spirit is identical to Jesus', & one day, we will also have a body like His. We can't feel our spirit or see a reflection of it in a mirror, but God *has* provided a mirror for us – His Word. The Word of God is our mirror. Our faith comes from the Word of God, & in it, He reveals to us & allows us to see *our* spirit - our *true identity in Him!*

Jesus & the Father were & are One. In the garden, Jesus prayed that we would be one with them. Jesus was constantly in touch with the Father. Our spirit is always in touch with God! Can we grasp that? Are we keeping that vital life-giving communication open? When we are one with the Father & the Son through the Holy Spirit, we can *have the mind of Christ*. We can *love as Jesus did*. If we let Him, the Spirit will move in & through us to make room for us to be loved by God so *He can use us to love others*.

The way we feel about our circumstances or things going on in the world may change, but *who we are in Christ never changes*. That's good news!

CONCLUSION

God's love is perfect & manifests in perfect ways. His love transforms us & drives us to be more like Christ. From the beginning of time He planned for believers to one day be with Him - forever. That's why believers can be bold on the Day of Judgment. He made a way through the blood of His own Son for our soul (the thinking, feeling part of us), our spirit (the faithful, believing part of us) & our body (new & imperishable) to be with Him in eternity.

Jesus is seated at the right hand of God. He *is* the righteousness of God. He lives in us today so that, *in Him*, "we might become the righteousness of God." When we focus on who we are *in Christ* & are guided by the mind & Spirit *of Christ*, we recognize who we have already become *by being in Christ*.

Believers strive to be like Christ because we have been transformed. Our minds have been renewed. We *see* Jesus, & by loving others we become *like* Him. Believers never need fear a judgment of condemnation for sin. For Christians, this judgment has passed. Jesus satisfied our judgment on the cross. Let us keep our spiritual mirror, the Word of God, close by to remind us of all He's done.

Our current bodies were designed & engineered to exist temporarily - on earth. When God calls us to live with Him, our bodies will be transformed to thrive in eternity, just like Jesus' body was... & we will be like Him.

Let us enjoy the blessings & freedom we have in this life due to God's love. Let us bless Him & give thanks for all we've inherited because of the vastness of that love & as joint heirs with Christ. Let us live life from the Source of His joy in us by blessing & praising Him, loving & serving others, teaching them & praying for them.

His love has been perfected among us. We can be bold. We have nothing to fear. When we move from this world, our likeness to Him will be perfected & our communion made complete! Resembling Him, we needn't be alarmed at the prospect of meeting Him –

He is love!
We will be bold!
We will be like Him.
We will see Him as He is!
And, as He is,
So will we be!
We are ready!

Let this verse be a *LifeLine* for you!

SCRIPTURE IS OUR –

Mirror & LifeLine!