



water from rock

## Selah: Stop, Look, Listen – January 18, 2024

The Lord be with you.

I have a question for you and it is surely one of life's most important questions. And the question is, what are your thoughts about one day standing before God? Is that a thought that frightens you or is that a thought that thrills you excites you as you think about one day seeing your savior?

Ok. Now people who don't believe in God, I mean, they are excused from this question because I know that they don't give any thought about one day standing before God. And we'll let them take that question up with God later. But you do love God. You were followers of our Lord Jesus Christ. I have the most wonderful news for you about that day when we stand before Him as today.

I am looking at first John chapter four. This is not the gospel of John. It's that first little letter by the apostle John. It's over towards the end of your bible first John chapter four verses 16 through 18. I think you're gonna like, what do you hear as I read there, beginning at verse 16, God is love and those who abide in love abide in God and God abides in them. Love has been perfected among us in this that we may have boldness on the day of judgment because as He is as Christ is so are we in this world?

There is no fear in love but perfect love casts out fear for fear has to do with punishment and whoever fears has not reached perfection and love. Notice here that how John begins, he begins with that winter statement that God is love. Love is God's very nature. Love is God's essence. It is his very being. And that means that God can no more stop loving you than well, that he could stop being God that leads John. Then to say in the next verse that love has been perfected among us.

The the Greek word translated here as perfected is the Greek word Taos. It it has, it has to do with reaching a goal. It means to finish something, to complete something to bring it to, to its perfection. Ok? This this might help you that this this word in its verb form is the word that Jesus uses on the cross. When he cries out in victory, it is finished, it is completed, it is accomplished. God's redeeming love for you and me.

So we see in this verse that, that the God's love has been perfected among us. It has reached its intended target. God's love for you and me. It's reached its goal. It has been completed among us in this. He says, he says that we may have boldness on the day of judgment.

I mean, not that we shrink back in fear and shame on the day of judgment. Not that we hang our heads, but that we may have boldness on that day. You see that, that, that's really the reason why Jesus came, why he lived, why he died, was raised, ascended so that God might bring us to himself, that we might stand before him fully forgiven accepted. So so God's love, it's, it's reached its intended goal in your life in my life that we may have boldness when we stand before God on that day of judgment.



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Because it says it, it says because as He is as Jesus is so are we in this world? I mean, that's really what salvation is all about that God, the father looks at the believer in Jesus as he looks at Jesus, he sees the believer. He sees her. He sees him as righteous and holy and blameless as he sees Jesus notice here that, that, that John is not exhorting you and me to do something.

I mean, whether He is affirming what we already are. He says that as Jesus is so are we in this world as as Jesus is the son of God? So are we sons and daughters of God by faith in the Lord Jesus? So that what Jesus is by his eternal nature, you and I are by grace. We are loved by the Father. As Jesus is loved by the Father. And that means then that we can have confidence on that day that we can stand before God because as Christ is so are you and me in this world?

Ok. Our text goes on it. It says there is no fear in love, in perfect love. Again that that's love that has reached its goal. There is no fear in love because perfect love casts out fear and, and the fear that He's talking about here, I mean, it's not fear of snakes, it's not fear of heights, it's not fear of tight places. It's, it's a fear that has to do with punishment.

He says by God now in the early days of my walk with Jesus, II, I still had a hold over of fear, a fear of punishment. I mean, although I believe I knew that Jesus had taken my punishment on the cross.

Well, I, I still held on to this fear of punishment. So, so we could have said that God's love had not been perfected in me. It had not reached its goal that, that God had intended because our, our text says that there is no fear in love because perfect love casts out fear, the fear of punishment. I mean, that that's what happens when, when God's love really reaches its goal in us. I mean, fear goes right out the door. Fear has no place in God's love for us.

There's a wonderful scene in the first chapter of the book of Revelation where we have the same Apostle John who's writing this book where, where John is caught up into heaven and he sees the ascended glorify Jesus as he is right now.

And it says there in revelation one, it says that John fell at Jesus' feet as though dead. Ok. This is the same Apostle John who at the last supper, he had leaned on Jesus breast. But now he sees Jesus in his glorified state. And it says that John fell at his feet as though dead. But then Jesus places his hand on John and says, do not be afraid. I wonder sometimes if the first word that you and I that we will hear from Jesus when we see Him in glory is he will say, don't be afraid God's perfect love for you. God's love that has reached its intended goal in your life. It casts out fear. Yes, there will be judgments for rewards for crowns, but not a final judgment of our sins that were judged by God on the cross.

So I speak to you as believers in Jesus that you, you need to have no fear about your past. You need to have no fear about the present as God loves you. He's watching over you. He will not allow anything to happen to you that will not be for your eternal good and you need not fear for the days to come as Jesus has promised to be with us to the end of the world and you need not fear for eternity because Jesus has taken care of your eternity. So if I never see you here in this life, II, I do look forward to seeing you there.

I'm Tim Smith, a fellow traveler. Thank you for listening. Until next time.