

Being Like Him – Arthur Barry

1 John 4:17 *Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness in the day of judgment; because as He is, so are we in this world.*

John says that we are like Jesus in the world now, and when He comes, we will be like Him then, also. (1 John 3:3). I do not know which similarity is the hardest to comprehend. Being like Him when He comes again has the most mystery attached to it but, in practical terms, how can I be like Him now?

Let us go back to the beginning of John's statement in 1 John 4:17. He makes the connection between love being perfected and boldness to face judgment. That connection is not often made, is it? How many people think about love's perfection being realized at Judgment? It makes perfect sense biblically, but it does not fit our culturally doctored version of love. At the end of verse 18 John says, "The one who fears is not made perfect in love." His reasoning is that one who fears must not be living in God (4:16) and, because God is love, a person must live in love to live in God.

Going back a bit further in the text, however, John has made another statement about living in God which seems to set up a contradiction. There he says plainly that to live in God one must believe that Jesus is the Son of God. (4:15) Is that a contradiction with the idea of living in love, or is it perhaps an additional requirement? Once again, we are forced to make connections that do not seem natural to us. That is why 1 John 4:10 makes it clear that love comes from God, and not from us. We are not capable of defining love; only God is. The definition is in 4:9.

In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him.

So, if we believe in the work that God is doing in His son, Jesus, we live in love. But remember, we are not living in our love; we are living in God's love. We are living in Christ who is the love of God, and therefore we live in God's love. The result is that we have no fear of the Judgment because God's love has freed us from the penalty of death. We approach the throne of judgment with boldness! We have been praying for boldness to be like Jesus while we wait for His return. It might be good to remind ourselves that such boldness is rooted in the fact that we already have boldness to stand before God.

Boldness, like love, comes from God, not from us. It is Jesus who came directly under God's judgment and who proved Himself worthy to live. God calls us to trust in that truth knowing that such trust can only make one bold and loving. If we devote ourselves to being bold at judgment, as Jesus is, we will be loving, as He is, till He comes.

Simply put: if we want to be like Jesus, we must accept that the likeness comes from Heaven, not from us, whether it be on Judgment Day or this day.



That meets at 701 South Wilbur, Sayre, PA 18840
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October 11, 2020

WELCOME!

Sunday

Bible Class- 9:30 a.m.

Worship- 10:30 a.m.

Wednesday

Bible Study-6:30 p.m.

All the churches of Christ greet you.

Romans 16:16

Today's Sermon: *Listen! Do You Want to Know A Secret?*

Sermons are recorded and are available for listening on the church website.

Bulletins are archived on the website.

valleycitieschurchofchrist.org

Find us on Facebook:

www.facebook.com/valleycitiescoc

Headphones are available for the hearing impaired.

Scripture Reading: Colossians

ANNOUNCEMENTS / UPCOMING EVENTS...

- **Wednesday Evening Bible Class: October 7th**, at the building at 6:30. We have been studying the minor prophets of the Old Testament but will be taking a break this week to learn some new songs. We finished our study of Hosea and the next minor prophet we study will be Habakkuk. Please join us!



NEWS

- We are currently working on getting **House to House** leaflets mailed out to households in the Valley this month.
- **Sandy and Arthur** plan on going to the Adirondacks for a get away next week from Thursday till Saturday. John and Denise Kashorek have a mountain cabin near Cold Brook, NY, where they welcome church workers.
- **Paul and Dawn** are in Scoharie this morning visiting Paul's sister, Linda and family. Linda has been told by doctors that she has a mass in her abdomen.
- **Sayre will be closing their school building because of a positive Covid test at that location. Ethan Chacona attends that school.**
- **Mike Huddleston called last week and said he and Nadine will be leading the Sojourners group of 4 couples that will be coming here the last week of June leading into July. Kay and Larry Little will also be returning.**
- Arthur will be preaching today.

PRAYERS

- Pray for **President Trump and the First Lady, Melania**, as well as all the other **senators and government workers** who were recently diagnosed with Covid 19.
- **Pray for Paul's sister Linda as doctors decide how to proceed to deal with the mass in her abdomen.**
- Pray for **Ted** as he will be having a biopsy on his kidneys tomorrow. Pray that the results are negative for cancer. He is also suffering from vertigo.
- **Jackie** has been having bad flare-ups with her arthritis. Please pray that she can be pain free.
- Pray for **John Chacona**, Ted's brother.
- Pray for **G.K. Pennington** and his wife Jo as they deal with his aggressive esophageal cancer. The doctors were not able to get all the cancer when they did his surgery, so as soon as his resection surgery heals, he must undergo more chemotherapy.
- **Doug Kashorek has asked for prayers for himself and his wife Lori as she has decided to go home to be with the Lord when He decides to take her.** Lori is on hospice care now. Their daughter Rachel and husband have also just announced they are expecting a baby in June, 2021.

If you have any PRAYERS or NEWS that you would like included in the bulletin, please contact Sandy at barncat7237@gmail.com or text or call (607) 261-0911.