



Bible Study
September 5, 2018

Perfected Love and the Judgement
1 John 4:17-18

Love has an assignment. Real love or the love of God has a target to hit. The love assignment is to do something for others and not just those you're choosing. If love does not hit its target, then it's not real love. Remember, God is Love; therefore, love has the same power of God and cannot fail—[Isaiah 55:10-12](#). God's love did not fail; it accomplished its assignment—[Romans 5:8](#), [John 3:16](#). In both cases, the love-of-God target is mankind in his worse state, unconditionally. Therefore, if we have the love of God, love's target does not change. It must do something for others, especially those who are in a broken and helpless state—[Luke 4:18-19](#). The love of God in us has to love mankind regardless of the condition. That's what perfect love is. It is the love of God loving others unconditionally through believers hitting its target. Love isn't love until it completes the assignment God gave to it. Therefore, perfected love is out of man's control but always under the control of God.

When we love one another, God's love becomes perfected—that is completed and fulfilled in us and through us. As we love more and more, we grow in love more and more. The obedient believer cannot love less; it's always more and more. We mature more and more by loving more and more on earth, that's what perfected love is.

John shows us that perfected love gets the believer ready for judgement. This text answers the question of—what's in it for me? What do I get from loving like God? It answers the question—why should I keep loving those who do not love me back? What good is there to love those who hate me? What do I get from loving and loving?

1. **Prepares Us For The Judgement—Verse 17**. The text says when God's love is perfected in us, we will have boldness or confidence in the day of judgement. Loving one another gives us confidence when we stand before God. Confidence in what? Confidence that I have done what I was assigned to do. Judgement is coming. **Hebrews 9:27** tells us that it is appointed for man to die once and after that the judgement. Judgement is coming when all persons will be brought before the great judge Himself, the Lord Jesus Christ.
1 Peter 4: 12-19 teaches us the judgement begins at the house of God; it begins with believers. **1 Corinthians 3: 9-15** says that many believer's work will be burned in the fire and they will suffer loss. But, if we have walked in perfect love, we will have boldness or confidence in the day of judgement; we don't have to worry about losing anything. The fruit of the spirit is love. The fruit of love is boldness. If we allow love to live itself out through us, we will have confidence before God the day of judgement and will not be ashamed. We do not have to worry about condemnation. Jesus never condemns those who are like Him. **Romans 8:1** teaches us that there is now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.

Most people, even believers, are wrong in their ideas about the return of Christ. He is judge as well as Savior. And believers will be judged at the judgement seat of Christ. Some will be weeping and others will be joyful. It all depends on how we have loved, what we have done in our bodies, and our works for Him—**1 Corinthians 5:10**. *For we must all appear before the judgement seat of Christ; that everyone may receive the things done in His body, according to that He hath done, whether it be good or bad.* God will deal with our attitudes and excuses on judgement day. The only way to be assured of deliverance from the judgement and having boldness is to stand with an uplifted face and live a life of love. **Love everyone more and more while on earth.**