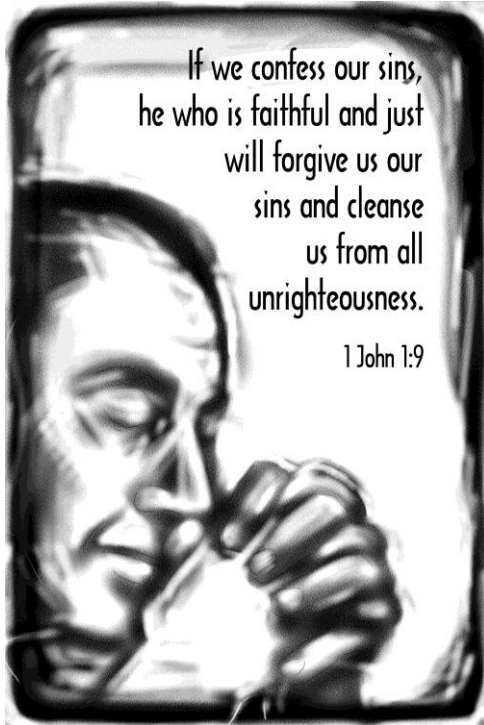


SUNDAY SCHOOL MATERIALS FOR ADULTS

LESSON 13



THE PERFECT MAN

Scripture Texts: Ephesians 1:4; 1 Peter 1:15-16; 1 John 1:9; Romans 6:11-14; Romans 8:1-2

To live holy is to live perfect lives in the eyes of God. Because some fail to see the difference between Christian perfection and human perfection, they fail to see the need of living holy before God. The Church of God is a perfect people, made free from sin and acceptable to God.

Since holiness is so necessary that no one can see the Lord without it, we must know how to become holy and remain perfect in the eyes of God. Every repentant sinner who comes to Christ will be cleansed from sin, made holy. He is kept holy by the grace of God and his own care in using his faculties for righteous living. It is our responsibility to accept and use the grace given us. Full dedication of ourselves and our all to God brings the Holy Spirit to guide us on our way. This is the way one is made holy and kept perfect every day.

MEMORY VERSE: *Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect.—Matthew 5:48*

Perfection is Necessary

Ephesians 1:4 He hath chosen us ... before the foundation of the world to be holy. The holiness, or perfection, of man has been God's plan from the first. It was not added afterward. Holiness is perfection, perfection is holiness. Man will always be prone to make human error, but human error is not sin and cannot spoil one's perfect life in Christ.

1 Peter 1:15-16 God's family is one. His children are born of Him and must be like Him. Refer to Memory Verse, also, **2 Corinthians 13:11; Colossians 1:28; Colossians 4:12**. Holiness is of such great necessity that **no man shall see the Lord** without it (**Hebrews 12:14**). One unforgiven sin will spoil our perfection.

An often-heard remark is, "No one is perfect." No, not perfect regarding mistakes, but yes, perfect regarding sins. Another remark that is often heard is, "Practice makes perfect. No, this is not so in the case of perfect living. Obedience to Christ does. **Jesus said unto him, If thou wilt be perfect, go and ... do as I say unto you (Matthew 19:21)**. Sins are done from wrong motives, knowing it is wrong, with a disregard for God's will. They range from criminal action to carelessness in discharging duties, but guilt is attached to them all. Mistakes may bring undesirable results but never guilt.

Perfection Can Be Attained

1 John 1:9 **If we confess our sins** – Real confession begins in the heart – owning to ourselves that we are guilty. It goes on to outward expression – owning to others that we have sinned. It is not satisfied until all possible is done to right those wrongs. God meets the repentant sinner with forgiveness and cleansing by the blood of Christ. He cleanses **from all unrighteousness** – all that is contrary to God. When that is done, the person is perfect, free from sin.

Romans 6:11-13 When a repentant sinner comes to Christ, he dies to sin and self, is separated from them. Then he is resurrected, made **alive unto God**, or joined to Him. It is important for each saved one to realize this and at all times to consciously **reckon** himself dead to sin and **alive unto God**. Being awake to his position in Christ, he is better prepared to hold it. For, although it all comes **through Jesus Christ our Lord**, we still have

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freedom of will, and we have a part in keeping ourselves free from sin. Depending upon God, we must say no to sin and lust. We must not yield our members – our hands, feet, eyes, tongues, minds, etc. – to be used as tools of sin. On the other hand, we are to yield them to God to use as He wills. We are free to yield or withhold. Withholding is sin. When fully yielded to Him, they will be put to use in His service. They will not be idle.

Romans 6:14 Sin shall not have dominion over you – not rule you. The sinner is under the power of sin. He is not free. Sin does the ruling. But Christ breaks sin's power. Read **John 8:36**. Christ saves him by grace, and then puts him under grace for all the future. The saint has the power of God at his disposal for living victoriously over sin. This is another fact he should realize very clearly. Being constantly conscious of it, he will continually depend upon God and draw upon Him for victory over trial and temptation which Satan is sure to send.

A People Not Condemned

Romans 8:1-2 There is therefore now no condemnation. There is a people who are not condemned – no blame, no guilt, no accusation from God. They live perfect lives. How do they do it? They are **in Christ Jesus**. They are born again, made alive, transferred from Satan's kingdom to Christ's. They are still in the flesh; they live here on earth just as other people, eating, sleeping, working, but they **do not walk ... after the flesh**. They do not follow the lusts of the flesh. They do not live to please themselves, but God. Their eyes are looking toward Heaven, not Earth. They are living for eternity, not for this world. They **walk after the Spirit**. The Holy Spirit directs their lives. The Spirit frees them from the **law of sin and death**. **The law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus** frees them. No one should even try to live a perfect life without the Holy Spirit in his heart. Of course, it cannot be done.

Our hearts can be perfectly clean, our motives perfectly pure, the love of our hearts perfectly set upon God. What we do may not be much, but it can be pure all through. It must be to meet God's approval. We all are weak and make many mistakes. This is why God has not left perfection depending upon our own strength, but upon His. Lean on Him more.

Some Theories About Perfection

All agree that sin is bad and that it should be conquered in some measure by some method. A few theories are: (1) That we are bound to sin every day but should seek forgiveness. There are two flaws in this: (a) We might die in an unforgiven moment. (b) Continual sinning dulls the conscience and repentance wanes. (2) That God imputes Christ's righteousness to His children's account while they go on sinning. (a) This would leave no difference between saints and sinners. (b) It would take away man's right of choice, would be artificial. God not only counts Christ's righteous to us, He actually makes it ours (**2 Corinthians 5:21**). (3) That we can sin and be purged of it at some future time or place. Since the Bible mentions no such opportunity, it is fatal to trust in it. (4) That there are two kinds of sin, one bad and the other not so bad; one will damn the soul, and the other will not. (a) God recognizes no such division. (b) It would be impossible to place borderline sins in the correct division. God has the best way. It is to create us in **righteousness and true holiness (Ephesians 4:24)**.

JUST A THOUGHT

Adam and Eve committed only one sin.