

BRYAN STATION BAPTIST CHURCH

THE PIONEER BAPTIST

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PERFECTION

By: C. D. COLE

"For by one offering he hath perfected for ever them that are sanctified," Hebrews 10:14.

Introduction: Our text is an affirmation; it affirms the perfection of the saints. A sanctified person is a saint and a saint is perfect. Find out whether you are a saint or not and claim perfection. Who is a saint? He is a born again believer. And this perfection is in the sight of God. It is good to be highly regarded by our friends, but it is far better to be counted as perfect by God. And it is God who makes us perfect; no sinner can make himself perfect. The text says we are made perfect for ever; literally in perpetuity.

We shall discuss this text under four heads: (1) The meaning of perfection or what it is; (2) The means of perfection or how one is made perfect; (3) The duration of perfection or how long our perfection lasts; and (4) The subjects of perfection or who is perfect.

THE MEANING OF PERFECTION

The word perfect has two distinct meanings: It is sometimes

used in the sense of maturity or of a full grown Christian in opposition of a babe in Christ. I Corinthians 2:6, "Howbeit we speak wisdom among them that are perfect...", among them who are advanced in Christian knowledge. Philippians 3:15, "*Let us therefore, as many as be perfect, be thus minded:...*" Paul says let all who are perfect (full grown) confess that they are not perfect in character and conduct. Perfection in character, personal perfection was what Paul was reaching for but had not reached. The Christian who is perfect or mature and advanced in knowledge will never think he has reached perfection or sinlessness in his daily living. This is something he strives for, but never boasts of.

Now the other use of the word perfect has to do with our position or standing before God. It is the perfection of justification which the believer now has and not of glorification which is future.

"There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit." Christ is the believers' righteous-

ness. I Corinthians 1:30, "*But of his are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption.*" Being in Christ makes the believer perfect before God. Romans 8:33, "*Who shall lay any thing to the charge of God's elect? It is God that justifieth.*"

The perfection of our text is not the perfection so called holiness folks believe and preach and claim. The saint has a sinful nature that is sinful and he is in need of continually confessing his sins. I John 1:9, "*If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.*" Romans 7:18, "*For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing: for to will is present with me; but how to perform that which is good I find not.*"

THE MEANS OF PERFECTION

What is it that makes me perfect? Our text says it is an offering. What offering? Hebrews 10:4, "*For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and of goats*

should take away sins." It is not by anything that the sinner has to offer. During World War II it was preached all over the country that the soldier who made the supreme sacrifice in dying on the battlefield would be saved and go to heaven. This shows how far the human mind may wander from the truth of God's word.

The offering that makes perfect is the one offering made by Jesus Christ at Calvary. Many years ago a man in Pennsylvania committed murder; he killed his neighbor in cold blood. The grand jury returned an indictment, but the man fled the country and was never apprehended. The case could not be tried and so the indictment papers were filed away in the clerk's office. The man went west, reformed his life, and got rich. But he was never happy. After many years driven by a sin stricken conscience, he returned to the county where the crime was committed, went to the courthouse while court was in session, pleaded guilty before the judge, giving his name and the crime he had committed. The judge called for the indictment papers to be brought in. The clerk went to his files and found the papers with the man's name, but the charges had been written in fine ink and had completely faded out. The court could not hold him for there were no charges against him. And nobody in the courtroom could recognize the man. Some did indeed remember the case, but there were no charges and nobody to testify against him. The court could not hold him and he walked out a free man; perfect in the eyes of the law.

This ill the believers' position in Christ Jesus. The believer is perfect; the indictment has been

canceled and the law of God cannot condemn him. But here the ill fails, for it is not time that erases the charge. God's indictment is written in unfading ink. It is not time, but the blood of Christ, that blots out our guilt of sin before the law of God. Christ took the law of God that was against us out of the way nailing it to His cross.

THE DURATION OF PERFECTION

How long is the believer perfect? Our text makes it clear that it is forever. Some translations read "in perpetuity" instead of forever. However the word forever makes it plain to the common man. The blood of Christ will never lose its power until the believer is safe in heaven. The believer's position is in Christ; and, if anybody is kept out of heaven, it would be Christ, for the believers' sins were put upon Him.

"Cursed by the law, bruised by the fall, Christ hath redeemed us once for all."

THE SUBJECTS OF PERFECTION

The subjects of perfection or who are the perfect ones? Our text calls them the sanctified. The Greek has the participle with the definite article, and reads, "them that are being sanctified." Here is the difficult part of our text. "*For by one offering he hath perfected for ever them that are sanctified.*" Those perfected in the past are being sanctified in the present.

Sanctification is a big subject in itself and we cannot go fully into the doctrine here and now. But the primary meaning of the word makes it mean "to set apart." Consider Exodus 13:2, "*Sanctify unto me all the firstborn, whatso-*

ever openeth the womb among the children of Israel, both of man and of beast: it is mine." with Exodus 13:12, "*That thou shalt set apart unto the LORD all that openeth the matrix, and every firstling that cometh of a beast which thou hast; the males shall be the LORD's.*"

Each person of the Godhead is said to sanctify. The Father sanctifies. Jude 1:1, "*Jude, the servant of Jesus Christ, and brother of James, to them that are sanctified by God the Father, and preserved in Jesus Christ, and called.*" **Sanctification in PURPOSE.** The Son sanctifies. Hebrews 10:10, "*By the which will we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.*"

Sanctification by PURCHASE. By His death on the cross Christ set His people apart as His purchased possession. Ephesians 2:13-14, "*In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise, Which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory.*"

Sanctification by the SPIRIT. This is the sanctification of our text. II Thessalonians 2:13, "*But we are bound to give thanks alway to God for you, brethren beloved of the Lord, because God hath from the beginning chosen you to salvation through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth.*" If you are trusting Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour; if Jesus Christ is precious to you; if you are trusting Him and trying to please Him, you may be sure you are sanctified by the Holy Spirit and being sanctified you may be sure that Christ made you

perfect by His death on the cross.
"For by one offering he hath perfected for ever them that are sanctified."

"Jesus I will trust Thee, Trust Thee with my soul;
Guilty, lost and helpless, Thou canst make me
whole

There is none in heaven or on earth like Thee;
Thou hast died for sinners; therefore, Lord for me.

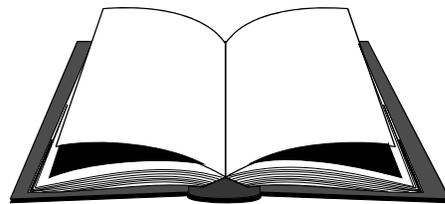
Jesus, I can trust Thee, Trust Thy written word,
Since Thy voice of mercy, I have often heard.
When Thy Spirit teacheth, to my taste how sweet--
Only may I hearken, sitting at Thy feet.

Jesus, I do trust Thee, trust Thee without doubt;
Whosoever cometh, Thou wilt not cast out.
Faithful is Thy promise, precious is Thy blood."

HEAR YE HIM

By: C. D. Cole

*"While he yet spake, behold,
a bright cloud overshadowed
them: and behold a voice out of
the cloud, which said, This is
my beloved Son, in whom I am
well pleased: hear ye him,"*
Matthew 17:5.



WHY?

1. God commands it.
2. Because of who Christ is, *"thou hast the words of eternal life,"* John 6:68.
3. Because of what he says. He does not speak foolishly. He talks about things that concerns your eternal welfare. Man's depravity is seen in what he likes to hear. *"They are of the world: therefore speak they of the world, and the world heareth them,"* I John 4:5.

WHAT?

What are we to hear?

1. Hear him when he instructs. Sin, salvation, etc.
2. Hear him when he commands. Baptism, etc. Every command is essential; not for salvation, but for approbation.
3. Sometime he speaks by way of directing our steps.
4. Hear him when he speaks by way of consolation.
5. Warning. Flee from the wrath to come.

HOW?

1. Reverently. God's word shall not be trifled with. We should never joke nor make sport of God's word.
2. Believingly. Mix it with faith.

WHEN?

1. Evermore. At the beginning of the Christian life. Hear and your soul shall live. As we advance in years, we advance in faith only as we hear him. In the eventide of life. Learn much of the scriptures so when you are old and can memorize no more you will have passages stored in the memory through which you can hear him when you can no longer see to read, nor able to hear the voice of man.