

The Everlasting Gospel Bible Study

Introduction

In the previous lessons we have examined what biblical sanctification was about, and now we will turn to the end game of what the process of sanctification will achieve, and that is the topic of perfection.

Lesson Nine: Perfection

Read Ephesians 4:13:

"Till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a _____ man, to the measure of the stature of the _____ of Christ."

1. What does the word perfection mean? It comes from the Greek word Τέλος and it means for something to come into maturity or completeness.

A. Read Ephesians 4:15: *"But, speaking the truth in love, may _____ in all things into him who is the head-Christ"*

B. In the above text Paul is clearly defining what perfection is. It is as the Greek means, which is to *grow up into Christ*.

C. Now, we need to be careful when we are speaking of perfection, so that we do not get confused as to what the point of perfection is. We must ever be clear that Jesus was the ultimate perfect man. We see this in Ephesians 4:10.

Read and discuss: Ephesians 4:10.

Paul is saying that Christ is as high as you can go and he is as low as you can go. In other words he fulfilled the highest demands of the law {see lesson three} and he went lower than any man has ever went by dying the second death {see lesson two} Read Colossians 1:28: *"Him we preach, warning every man in all wisdom, that we may present every man _____ in Christ Jesus."*

- We have our perfection already in Christ!
- refer back to lesson three if need be, but suffice it to say on the great Day of Atonement we are presented perfect before the father in Christ by faith.

2. However, and another caution, just because Jesus is my perfection does that mean that God is not calling us to perfection? Not at all! He has become our example in all things. Read and discuss the statement below:

"The hand that hung the worlds in space is the hand that wrought with delicate skill the lilies of the field. And as God is perfect in his sphere, so we are to be perfect in ours."

A. Read John 17:21-23

“That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me. And the glory which thou gavest me I have given them; that they may be one, even as we are one: I in them, and thou in me, that they may be ____ _____ in one; and that the world may know that thou hast sent me, and hast loved them, as thou hast loved me.”

- i. *It is obvious that we are also called to be perfect in our capacity as Jesus was in his capacity. So, on the one hand he is my perfection for Justification, his perfection then becomes my model to grow up into for sanctification.*
- ii. *also read and discuss Philippians 3:12-14: What is Paul saying? he has said that he already has perfection in Christ, but he is to also lay hold of it himself!*

B. What does it mean to be perfect? Read John 17:26. “*And I have declared to them Your name, and will declare it, that the _____ with which You loved me may be in them, and I in them.*”

- In John 17 the discussion is becoming perfect by becoming one with Jesus as he is one with God and in verse 26 we learn that to come into perfection is for us to have the love of God in us as it was also in Jesus.

3. What is the alternative to Christian perfection? In other words what does Paul call it when we are not maturing into the love of Christ? Read Ephesians 4:14: “*That we henceforth be no more _____, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive;*”

A. besides calling us children what else does Paul warn of us of if we fail to grow up? Read and discuss Ephesians 4:20-24:

- what was Paul telling us to put off?
- and what was he telling us to put on?

The mature Christian is the one that puts off the old man, and puts on the New man, while the immature childlike Christian is still as the old man, and has yet to grow up into Christ.

4. Read and discuss the following quote:

“*Christ is waiting with longing desire for the manifestation of Himself in His church. When the character of Christ shall be perfectly reproduced in His people, then He will come to claim them as His own.*”

- How does this statement relate to Revelation 14:12?
- read Matthew 22:36 and Romans 13:10.
- What does it mean to truly keep the law?
- so would you say it is fair to say that at the end of time under the Third Angels message {Revelation 14:12} that God’s people will have a perfect love for him and for one another as evidenced by keeping the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus?

A. what does 1 John 4:12 say is perfection? “*No man hath seen God at any time. If we _____ one another, God dwelleth in us, and his love is _____ in us.*”

5. How does perfection relate to the Judgment? Read 1 John 4:17-18: "Herein is our love made perfect, that we may have _____ in the day of judgment: because as he is, so are we in this world. There is no _____ in love; but perfect love _____ out fear: because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love."

what a wonderful thought that our perfection is actually our confidence on the day of judgement. because as he is seen by the father so we are seen by the father, and because the father loves us as he loved his son we should have no fear that we are lost because if the love of God has been perfected in us then we cast out all fear, and replace it with faith. Faith in his great love for us.

Conclusion: perfection is not something to dread and fear over wondering that if I am not perfect as God is then I will perish, but rather it is an attitude of love in the heart towards God and man that is implanted in us through the work of the Holy Spirit. Think of how easy it is to love your mother, a child or a spouse? Once we submit to the workings of the gospel the Holy Spirit's job is to bring us to a love that is as perfect as we can have in this mortal flesh. Our job is to continue to submit to this work in our life and it is God that will bring us to perfection, or to a mature Christian.