

LIVING WITHOUT SIN GOING ON UNTO PERFECTION!

By: Phillip Hayes

Whosoever abideth in him sinneth not: whosoever sinneth hath not seen him, neither known him.

Little children, let no man deceive you: he that doeth righteousness is righteous, even as he is righteous.

He that committeth sin is of the devil; for the devil sinneth from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil.

Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin; for his seed remaineth in him: and he cannot sin, because he is born of God.

In this the children of God are manifest, and the children of the devil: whosoever doeth not righteousness is not of God, neither he that loveth not his brother.

[1John 3:6-10].

True Christians are not Christian in name only, but they have experienced the new birth and are *born of God*. The scripture says that *"if we walk in the spirit, we will not fulfill the lusts of the flesh."* Now we all believe that! So . . . if you *"die daily"* and confess that *"it is not I that liveth, but Christ,"* as the Apostle Paul did, and you, *"put on the Lord Jesus and make no provision for the flesh,"* and if you *"deny yourself"* and *"take up the cross,"* as Jesus said, how could you possibly commit sin?!

Now, I hope every reader clearly understands that God expects us to live according to His Word, no matter how difficult it may sound. The Word has plainly commanded us to "*sin not!*" And amazingly the grace that saves us, (which most use as an excuse to commit sin), teaches exactly as all the other scriptures. Look how Paul described the working of grace to Titus:

*For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men,
Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts,
we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world; [Titus 2:11-12]*

Obviously, if one is indeed saved by the grace of God it would be difficult to obey its teaching of living godly in this present life, and also live a sinful life!

In light of all these scriptures how can preachers teach that we cannot cease from sin? How dare they preach that God's people have to sin and cannot be perfect?! Anyone that teaches you cannot cease from sin are teaching contrary to God's Word and Grace.

But what about perfection? Perfection is the ultimate level, and should be the goal of every Christian. To fully understand perfection one must first accept that God has given them power to live without sin. Because living without sin is the beginning step toward perfection, In other words, you must first deal with the sin question in order to press toward the mark that God has set before us.

If therefore perfection were by the Levitical priesthood, (for under it the people received the law,) what further need was there that another priest should rise after the order of Melchisedec, and not be called after the order of Aaron? [Hebrews 7:11]

For the law made nothing perfect, but the bringing in of a better hope did; by the which we draw nigh unto God. [Hebrews 7:19].

These two scriptures are telling us that the keeping of the law through the priesthood that ministered the law made nothing perfect. Therefore, living without sin by keeping the Old Covenant Law, (which is your own righteousness, as sin is the transgression of the law), is not perfection.

Further, there should be no question; we are "expected" to *"offer up our bodies, a living sacrifice, which is our reasonable service,"* and live without sin. Therefore perfection as declared in the scriptures is not simply living without sin, as this is what God says is a "reasonable service" for us. Perfection is a realm that we must "press" for or attain unto.

The Apostle Paul was very bold in his declarations of going on and pressing toward a greater depth in God. As a matter of fact, when one examines the writings of Paul, one finds the great Apostle unsatisfied with the realm most of us enjoy today. Although it is clear he lived a holy and separated life and spoke with tongues *"more than ye all"* and understood great mysteries, had seen the Lord Jesus, had been caught up to the third heaven, seemingly his thirst for God was still not satisfied for he declared in one place, *"Oh, that the life of Jesus might be made manifest in my mortal flesh"* and again, *"That I might know Him and the power of His resurrection."* I am always amazed when I read these verses! Here was a man that did more for God than I'll probably ever hope to do, yet he was not satisfied with speaking in tongues, or even working miracles!

While most "Pentecostals" today are satisfied with speaking in tongues every other Sunday or with being entertained with some formal program, it is easy to understand why they cannot comprehend the realm that Paul was desiring. Paul said there was a race to be run and a *"MASTERY"* to be obtained!

Know ye not that they which run in a race run all, but one receiveth the prize? So run, that ye may obtain.

And every man that striveth for the mastery is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a corruptible crown; but we an incorruptible.

I therefore so run, not as uncertainly; so fight I, not as one that beateth the air. [1Corinthians 9:24-26]

The Apostle was directing the church to run, that they might obtain. Obtain what? The free gift of salvation? No, Paul said there was a mastery to obtain. What is this mastery? Jesus said, *"The disciple is not above his master: but every one that is perfect shall be as his master."*

Paul also described the realm of perfection as the "high calling." And with good reason, what could possibly be a higher calling than to be as our Master?! Here is how he said it in Philippians chapter three:

Verse 7: *But what things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ.*

Verse 8: *Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ.*

(To obtain the realm that Paul is speaking of, you will have to count all things but loss).

Verse 9: *And be found in him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith:*

(Your own righteousness which is of the law or through the keeping of the law will not be sufficient, it will take His righteousness).

Verse 10: *That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death;*

Verse 11: *If by any means I might attain unto the resurrection of the dead.*

Verse 12: *Not as though I had already attained, either*

were already perfect: but I follow after, if that I may apprehend that for which also I am apprehended of Christ Jesus.

(Here, we catch a glimpse of his struggle and desire to "apprehend" that which had "apprehended" him)! Christ had apprehended, (arrested, got a hold of) him, and now Paul was going to apprehend Jesus in His fullness. The Apostle Paul is plainly separating attaining the resurrection from perfection: (either were already perfect). Paul is saying he had not been resurrected nor had he attained perfection.)

Verse 13: *Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before,*

(Again he states, "I have not attained," but I am reaching forth for those things which are "before" or yet to come).

Verse 14: *I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.*

(There is his goal, the mark for the prize, THE HIGH CALLING OF GOD. Where is it found? IN CHRIST JESUS)!

Verse 15: *Let us therefore, as many as be perfect, be thus minded: and if in any thing ye be otherwise minded, God shall reveal even this unto you.*

(Here, the Apostle sums up his statement by identifying the high calling as being perfect)! His teaching is plain and there is no denying it!

Let me comment once more on what Paul said about apprehending that which had apprehended him. Look at St. John 15:7.

If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you.

Jesus is plainly saying that if you abide (live) in Him and if His words (live) in you, you can ask what you will and

it will be done. Paul was seeking to live completely in Christ! This is what he was struggling to obtain and instructing the church to obtain. Friends, Christ lives in you by the Holy Ghost, but we are lacking if we fail to live IN HIM by the same Holy Ghost!

Paul labored to bring every Christian to this revelation! Perfection was his message as it is also mine. How can you deny it?

Even the mystery which hath been hid from ages and from generations, but now is made manifest to his saints: To whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory:

Whom we preach, warning every man, and teaching every man in all wisdom; that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus:

Whereunto I also labour, striving according to his working, which worketh in me mightily.

[Colossians 1:26-29].

There it is! His labor was to present EVERY MAN PERFECT in Christ Jesus. Now if you cannot be perfect as some teach, was not the greatest of all Apostles in error for both teaching and laboring to bring people to perfection? It is certainly absurd (and I believe blasphemous), to think Paul was wrong in any of his teachings!

There is much more evidence in the writings of the Apostles concerning perfection. Let's look at a few more that you might be fully convinced.

For we are glad, when we are weak, and ye are strong: and this also we wish, even your perfection.

[2Corinthians 13:9].

Wishing even your perfection? Surely he would never wish something impossible like perfection?!

Finally, brethren, farewell. Be perfect, be of good comfort, be of one mind, live in peace; and the God of love and

peace shall be with you. [2Corinthians 13:11].

Finally brethren, BE PERFECT! Now I have been preaching perfection for over 30 years now and telling folks to be perfect, and I am called a fanatic and a deceiver! Well, if I am, then the Apostles would have been deceivers also.

The Apostle James stated in James 1:4:

"But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing."

And Apostle Paul declared in Colossians 3:14, *"And above all these things put on charity, which is the bond of perfectness."* The love of God is what will seal perfection in us.

It has always amazed me that men and women can claim to be ministers sent from God and haven't a clue as to what God has commissioned them to do! God's sole purpose for the ministry was to bring His people to perfection. Ephesians 4:11-13 fully reveals this purpose of a God ordained ministry:

And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ:

For the PERFECTING of the saints? Unto a PERFECT man? Surely, you can see the truth here!! This is what the ministry is for! This is what God called every minister of God to do! To edify, to bring unity, and a knowledge of the Son of God to the people, UNTO a PERFECT MAN (not men) but MAN, singular. This speaks of the body of Christ, and look how Paul says our measure (or gauge) or mark) will be. . . *"Unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ."*

Praise the Lord! Jesus commanded in Matthew 5:48:

"Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect. The disciple is not above his master: but every one that is perfect shall be as his master."

Paul is saying that the goal of the church is to be like Jesus! And my friends, it is our destiny! The scriptures tell us in Romans that God has predestinated us to be conformed to the image of the Son. Jesus was the express image of God's Person (Hebrews 1:3)! Now, we are the body of Christ and God would have come to the same image. He declared the end from the beginning and it cannot fail!

Just one more scripture before I close, that I hope will seal this revelation in your heart.

But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil. [Hebrews 5:14]

Perfection is STRONG MEAT! Many cannot digest it for they are babes. But children of God I urge you to grow up. God is speaking wonderful and marvelous things to those that have their attentions on those things that are spiritual. If your thoughts are on the world and religion, you will never hear Him that speaks from Heaven. It is time for all Christians to recommit their lives fully to Jesus.

Therefore leaving the principles of the doctrine of Christ, let us go on unto perfection; not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works, and of faith toward God, Of the doctrine of baptisms, and of laying on of hands, and of resurrection of the dead, and of eternal judgment. And this will we do, if God permit. [Hebrews 6:1-3].

The writer of Hebrews obviously believed in a realm of PERFECTION that was beyond repentance, and even the gifts or "laying on of hands." He said, "**LET US GO ON UNTO PERFECTION!**" Again, I must say to the scoffers and

doubters, if one cannot be perfect, then why did the writers of the New Testament so clearly and boldly state that there was such a realm and that it was not only obtainable, it was the full purpose of God from the beginning.

The last verse says, *"And this will we do, if God permit."* I believe with all my heart that we are entering into the age when God is going to permit this last day church to enter behind the veil to the final dimension, "The dimension of perfection". This is the True Sabbath Rest we should all be desiring and working toward!

The Apostle Paul confessed in 1Corinthians 13, *"For we know in part and prophesy in part."* But he also prophesied of a time that would come, *"When that which is perfect is come, then that which is in part shall be done away."* Oh, what a marvelous revelation! A perfect ministry for the endtime! No more will we look through a glass darkly, but we will see clearly ALL the mysteries of our God!

Jesus is coming for a PERFECT CHURCH! Are you striving for the mastery? Are you pressing toward the mark? Is the high calling in your view? Are you content in Pentecost. Or, are you contending for the fullness of the promise of our God?

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