

FINISHED—PERFECT—COMPLETE

How would you like to be perfect and complete? Carefully note three verses of Scripture:

John 19:30,³⁰ when he had received the drink, Jesus said, "It is finished." With that, he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

Hebrew 10:14,¹⁴ for by one sacrifice he has made perfect forever those who are being made holy.

Colossians 2:10,¹⁰ and you are complete in Him, who is the head of all principality and power. (NKJV)

NOTE:

FINISHED, PERFECT, COMPLETE:

In *John 1:1 and 1:14*, we read that Christ was God and became flesh. *¹In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ¹⁴And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.* He was both Divine and human; altogether perfect. Christ lived for more than thirty years on this earth. His was the perfect life. All of His works were works of perfection.

Christ died on the cross as the Lamb of God without spot or blemish. *1 Peter 1:19,¹⁹ but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect.* He was holy, harmless, undefiled. He was made flesh for the specific purpose of offering Himself in sacrifice on the cross without spot unto God to put away sin. *Hebrews 2:9,⁹ But we do see Jesus, who was made lower than the angels for a little while, now crowned with glory and honor because he suffered death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone. Hebrews 9:26²⁶ Otherwise Christ would have had to suffer many times since the creation of the world. But he has appeared once for all at the culmination of the ages to do away with sin by the sacrifice of him.*

After His death, Christ abolished death, *2 Timothy 1:10,¹⁰ but it has now been revealed through the appearing of our Savior, Christ Jesus, who has destroyed death and has brought life and immortality to light through the gospel.* Christ's work of redemption was a perfect work. His cry was "finished." God accepted the finished work of Christ as payment for all of the sins of every sinner who will accept the perfect Christ and His perfect sacrifice. "It is finished."

Now hear the good news of *Hebrews 10:10-14,¹⁰ and by that will, we have been made holy through the sacrifice of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.¹¹ Day after day every priest stands and performs his religious duties; again and again he offers the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins. ¹² But when this priest had offered for all time one sacrifice for sins, he sat down at the right hand of God,¹³ and since that time he waits for his enemies to be made his footstool. ¹⁴ For by one sacrifice he has made perfect forever those who are being made holy. The same truth is told in Hebrews 9:12,¹² He did not enter*

by means of the blood of goats and calves; but he entered the most Holy Place once for all by his own blood, thus obtaining^[a] eternal redemption. "By one offering," believers are sanctified; believers are perfected by the one offering of the perfect Christ and by His one entrance into heaven after His death and resurrection. He has perfected forever believing sinners. Do you want to be made perfect? God wants to do this very thing for you. Christ's work is God's way. Take God's way. Let God save you in His way. Let the perfect God by His grace, make you perfect in His sight in His way. Christ has obtained for us eternal redemption. Believe this very good news and receive Christ. The law made nothing perfect. The bringing in of the better

hope did. *Hebrews 7:19,¹⁹ (for the law made nothing perfect), and a better hope is introduced, by which we draw near to God. Romans 10:4,⁴ for Christ have brought the Law to an end, so that everyone who believes is put right with God. Hebrews 7:25²⁵ Therefore he is able to save completely^[a] those who come to God through him, because he always lives to intercede for them. Christ is called the "Author and Finisher" of our faith in Hebrews 12:2,² looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Christ being made "perfect" became the "Author" of eternal life.*

The **AUTHOR** of our salvation was made "perfect" through suffering. Jesus Christ, the Righteous, being Divine, was ever perfect. But His redemptive work on behalf of imperfect humanity was a work of suffering. He said, "My meat is to do the will of God and "finish" or "end" or "perfect" the work which He gave me to do. Then

He said, "I have finished." He did a perfect work. God was altogether satisfied with "the finished work of Christ." "For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the Just for the unjust, that He might bring as to God." *I Peter 3:18,¹⁸ For Christ also suffered once for sins, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us^[a] to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive by the Spirit. On the cross Christ cried, "It is finished" or "finished." John 19:30,³⁰ so when Jesus had received the sour wine, He said, "It is finished!" And bowing His head, He gave up His spirit.*

NOTE: What God can do and does is to perfect the believing sinner through the finished work of Christ. *Romans 3:25-26,²⁵⁻²⁶ God offered him, so that by his blood^[a] he should become the means by which people's sins are forgiven through their faith in him. God did this in order to demonstrate that he is righteous. In the past he was patient and overlooked people's sins; but in the present time he deals with their sins, in order to demonstrate his righteousness. In this way God shows that he himself is righteous and that he puts right everyone who believes in Jesus. Christ was perfect in conduct, perfect in all the will of God. He came down from heaven not to do His own will, but the will of Him that sent Him. John 6:38³⁸ For I have come down from heaven not to do my will but to do the will of him who sent me. God was satisfied completely with the perfect work of Christ. On the grounds of that perfect work of death and resurrection, God can be just and the justifier of every one who believes in Jesus. When the believing sinner is forgiven all of his sins by the just and merciful God, it is for Christ's sake. Ephesians 4:32,³² be kind and compassionate to one another forgiving each other just as in Christ, God forgave you.*

After, the resurrection of Christ, God sent from heaven the Holy Spirit to witness concerning the perfect redemptive work of Christ which the Father accepted. The Father, by His grace and His Spirit, makes the believing sinner to be

“accepted in the Beloved Son.” *Ephesians 1:6-8*, ⁶ to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved. ⁷ In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, ⁸ which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight. To prove to the believer that he is “accepted in the Beloved,” God sent His Holy Spirit in the believer whereby he is sealed unto the day of redemption. The indwelling Holy Spirit is the earnest of the believer’s inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession. *Ephesians 1:14*. “¹⁴ who is the guarantee^[a] of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, ^[b] to the praise of his glory. Christ having loved His own which were in the world, He loved them unto the END.” *John 13:1*. Now before the Feast of the Passover, when Jesus knew that his hour had come to depart out of this world to the Father, having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end.

Apostle Paul said that it is in Jesus that completeness and fulfillment is attained. *Colossians 2:9-10*,⁹ For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily; ¹⁰ and you are complete in Him, who is the head of all principality and power. Anyone who is called upon to do God’s work, the Father makes sure that he guides them until the appearance of Jesus Christ. *Philippians 1:6*. ⁶ And so I am sure that God, who began this good work in you, will carry it on until it is finished on the Day of Christ Jesus. Jesus goes on to tell those who believe in him that no one can ever snatch them from his hands. *John 10:28*.²⁸ I give them eternal life, and they shall never die. No one can snatch them away from me. We also know that God accepts those who believe not those who work. *Romans 4:6-8*,⁶ this is what David meant when he spoke of the happiness of the person whom God accepts as righteous, apart from anything that person does:⁷ “Happy are those whose wrongs are forgiven, whose sins are pardoned!
⁸ Happy is the person whose sins the Lord will not keep account of!” When the believing sinner comes to God in God’s way and that believing sinner is made accepted in the Beloved, in Christ, his standing is **PERFECT** and **COMPLETE**. He is guaranteed a perfect body when Christ comes. Until that day the believer is kept secure by Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Most people say that it is not possible for a human being to be perfect. When Jesus Christ was here on earth He said to His disciples that it is a must to be perfect just as the Father is. *Matthew 5:48*.⁴⁸ You must be perfect—just as your Father in heaven is perfect.

In up-to-date language we must admit that this was a big order. Surely all should be agreed that by no human reformation scheme, by no ethical philosophy of man can any imperfect human creature be made as perfect as the perfect Creator. But the question is: can the perfect Creator make the imperfect creature perfect, if that human creature is willing to be worked upon by God?

Colossians 1:28,²⁸ Him we preach, warning every man and teaching every man in all wisdom, that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus. What meanest the language of “That we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus?” According to the Bible, man can undergo a transformation that will change him from an imperfect creature to a perfect creature: that is, the new creature is perfect.

Concerning such transformed creatures, note what one of them was directed by God's perfect Spirit to write in *Ephesians 2:10*,¹⁰ *For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.*

The bible continues to show us in *II Corinthians 5:17*: *"Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold all things are become new."*

Only "in Christ Jesus" can any human being be presented perfect. Christ Jesus spent about thirty-three years on this earth as a perfect man. "The Second Man is from heaven." Human creatures must be recreated. They must be God's workmanship. God must place them in Christ Jesus. If God declares that He can present a man perfect in Christ Jesus, God means exactly what He says and your denial of this Divine fact will in no way alter the fact.

Why not seriously and carefully look into this matter? There is nothing else that you will ever have the opportunity to consider that can begin to compare with the importance of this glorious truth.

If man must be absolutely perfect in behavior to receive God's approval and benediction, then we say in despair, "What is the use?" Impossible, But if the work is to be the work of the omnipotent God, with Whom all things are possible, and if we are to be worked upon by the perfect God, and God emphatically declares that He can make the imperfect man perfect, then let's turn the impossibility over to God and let's see how He makes it possible.

Concerning this "perfect", remember the negative and positive in *Hebrews 7:19*: ¹⁹ *for the law made nothing perfect; on the other hand, there is the bringing in of a better hope, through which we draw near to God.* The negative here is "the law"; the positive is "the better hope." No perfection by "the law." Perfection is by "the better hope." *John 1:17*,¹⁷ *for the law was given through Moses, but grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.* With Moses (the law) nothing is perfect, but with Jesus Christ, (the better hope) perfection is accomplished.

But now the question: How can the perfect doings of another counteract our imperfect doings? Our first answer is "BY GRACE." God's Word is, "The perfect Christ and His perfect work is the better hope.

Christ is "the Beginning and the Ending" in *Revelation 1:8* ⁸ *"I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End,"*^[a] *says the Lord,*^[b] *"who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty."* This word "ending" is from the same Greek word translated "perfect." Christ was perfect when He was in the form of God. He was the perfect Man in incarnation. *Hebrews 2:10* ¹⁰ *For it was fitting for Him, for whom are all things and by whom are all things, in bringing many sons to glory, to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings.* As the Captain (Author) of our salvation He was made perfect through sufferings.

"And being made perfect He became the Author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey Him." Hebrews 5:9.

Here is a most interesting and significant statement. ⁴ *For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone that believeth. Romans 10:4.* Christ is the END of the law. This word "END" is the same Greek word as the word "PERFECT." Unrighteous sinners, unable to keep God's law, are declared righteous when they believe on Jesus Christ. He is called Jesus Christ, The Righteous. *I John 2:1 my little children, these things write unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous:*

Acts 13:39, "And by Him all that believe are justified from all things, from which ye could not be justified by the Law of Moses."

We learn from Apostle Paul that Jesus Christ is the Author and Finisher of our faith. *Hebrews 12:2 " ² Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God."* This word "Finisher" is the same Greek word as "perfect." Perfect work cannot be done by man, but by the Trinity (God the father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit).

NOTE God's truth in *Romans 4:4-5, "Now to him that worketh is the reward not reckoned of grace, but of debt. But to Him that worketh not, but believeth on Him that justified the ungodly, His faith is counted for righteousness."*

Thus we have learned that in the matter of being made perfect:

1. We are God's workmanship;
2. It is by believing in Christ and relying on His perfect work;
3. We are to be presented perfect in Christ Jesus.

Finally, let us look at John's gospel about Jesus' work of perfection:

John 4:34, ³⁴ Jesus saith unto them, my meat is to do the will of him that sent me, and to finish his work.

John 5:36, ³⁶ But I have greater witness than that of John: for the works which the Father hath given me to finish, the same works that I do, bear witness of me, that the Father hath sent me.

John 17:4 ⁴ I have glorified thee on the earth: I have finished the work which thou gavest me to do.

John 19:30, ³⁰ when Jesus therefore had received the vinegar, he said, it is finished: and he bowed his head, and gave up the ghost.

The Father gave His Son something to do. He did it. That Son was perfect. He finished His work. He did a perfect work. God accepted it as such. Hebrews 9:12 ¹² Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood he entered in once into the holy place having obtained eternal redemption for us.

Before that perfect Son finished His work, He thus prayed for His disciples: "That they may be made perfect." *John 17:23, 23 I in them, and thou in me, that they may be made perfect in one; and that the world may know that thou hast sent me, and hast loved them, as thou hast loved me.* Do you suppose that the Father would permit the prayer of His Son to go unanswered? There will yet be a realization of *Ephesians 4:13; "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 fullness of Christ."*

As children of God we must study hundreds of verses of Scripture to know God's will and then remember that the same grace of God that saved us from the penalty of sin abounds and is sufficient for every task, trial and test, and the same power that raised Christ from the dead is to upward who are on redemption and resurrection ground by faith in the crucified and resurrected Christ. *II Corinthians 9:8 and God is able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye, always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work.*

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