

Perfect, or Perfected?
Theme: Being Assured of Your Salvation
Matthew 5:48

Introduction:

- A. Think about these questions if you were to die right now...
 - 1. Would you go to heaven?
 - 2. How do you know your answer?
- B. The answer to these questions seem easy when reading Bible passages. **Rev. 2:10; 2 Tim. 4:6**
- C. But for many it is difficult when applied to us specifically.
Why is that?

Discussion:

- I. The Source of Perfection
 - A. The obvious...God is perfect
 - 1. His names implies such.
 - 2. We're definitely NOT perfect!
 - B. Not so obvious...
 - 1. Jesus told us to be perfect like our Father in heaven. **Matt. 5:48**
 - 2. So, is it really possible to be perfect or do we need to understand how we are perfect?
- II. Can We Be Perfect?
 - A. Either: "Jesus said it, so it must be true/possible."
 - B. Or: His use of 'perfect' must be understood in a manner not typically understood/used by numerous Christians today.
 - C. The Bible teaches that all sin and fall short of God's glory. **Rom. 3:9-10**
 - D. Even AFTER sinners become Christians they still commit sin. Cp. **1 Jn. 1:7**
 - 1. 'If' doesn't necessarily imply a walk of perfection. Cp. **Rom. 7**
 - 2. Nor does Christ's blood give us a license to sin. Cp. **Rom. 6:1; 1 Jn. 2:1**
- III. Not Perfect, Yet Thankfully, Perfected
 - A. If we "walk in the Light..."
 - 1. We bear fruit. **Eph. 5:6-10**
 - 2. We're presented perfect in Christ. **Col. 1:21-28**
 - B. "...The blood of Jesus cleanses us from all sin" **1 Jn. 1:7**
- IV. So, What Did Jesus Mean?
 - A. Jesus meant that God is the standard of righteousness and that we be like Him. **1 Pet. 1:13-16**
 - 1. We shall love... **Matt. 5:20ff**
 - 2. ...Even our enemies. **Matt. 5:43-48**
 - B. In this way we walk perfectly (with maturity, or completeness): with pure righteousness.

Conclusion:

- A. So, are you walking in the Light (in Christ)?
 - 1. You can rest assure that if you were to die right now – your sins are washed away.
 - 2. You should rejoice always in the cleansing blood of our Savior.
- B. The Good News for the rest of you... You can be made perfect. **Col. 1:28**