

GOODNEWS LETTER

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PERFECT

(Christ) **Whom we preach, warning every man, and teaching every man in all wisdom; that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus: Colossians 1:28.**

I've always wanted to be perfect. Often, when I'm asked how I'm doing, I answer with, "perfect!" But, I'm smiling when I say it - a sort of mind over matter thing.

The Greek meaning for "**perfect**" is "*complete or, ended.*" It also has the meaning of maturity. However, when I see how some of the elders act, I don't know if I want to be mature; except, in Christ, of course.

But, when using the word "**perfect**," one has to remember to read the context, carefully. It's context, context, context if we are to get the meaning of any particular passage where the word, "**perfect**" is used.

It's true that **perfect** carries the same meaning, normally; but, to get its full meaning, we must add some things. Being perfect is not an automatic position, or our part, that is. In Christ, yes. But, we have our part to do.

A very good example of our part is "**presenting our bodies as a living sacrifice,**" in Romans 12:2. Paul teaches that a follower of Christ is to **know** and **prove** the "**acceptable, and perfect, will of God.**" And, a believer has to renew his mind on a daily basis.

Another example teaching us that we must add something to our position of "**perfect**" is found in 2 Timothy 3:17. Here, Paul states that every Christian has to follow the inspired Scripture; that obedience is necessary if "**... the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works,**" 2 Timothy 3:17.

But, when we come to Christ and His finished work - my very favorite doctrine, there is nothing needed to be added. All we need do is to trust Him and we are complete. In Jesus and His payment for sin is all we need. We are complete by His offering and, His blood makes it a finished work.

Further study of the book of Hebrews allows us to learn a lot about the salvation we have in Jesus. Just a small reading shows us that Jesus did it all!

For example, notice the following verses in Hebrews. First, 2:10 states, "**...in bringing many sons unto glory...to make the captain of our salvation "PERFECT" through suffering.**" Then, Hebrews 5:9 says, "**And being made "PERFECT," He became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey Him.**" We must obey Jesus, but our salvation was already authored - even, in eternity, according to 1st Pe 1:20.

The meaning of "**Perfect**" takes us to another favorite passage that is in Hebrews 7:19. "For the Law made nothing perfect, but bringing in a better hope did; by the which we draw nigh unto God." The Law did not do the job because the sacrifices under that system were not **efficacious** and "...could not make him that did the service perfect, as pertaining to the conscience" (Heb 9:9).

Clearly, the Hebrew letter teaches that the Law was only a temporary source to God. It was needed only until the **PERFECT** sacrifice arrived. The Tenth Chapter and the 14 verse of Hebrews offers a wonderful explanation on the above statement: "For by one offering He hath perfected for ever them that are sanctified." His blood was **efficacious**.

But, once we start in Hebrews, it's hard to stop reading. Jesus accomplished everything for us. V16 tells of the New Covenant that His blood secured, placing His laws in our hearts. V17 says our sins and iniquities are forgotten and, V18 records that we have remission and, "Where remission of these (sins) is, there is no more offering for sin."

Being "**Perfect**" has so many Scriptural benefits, too. We may enter into the "Holiest by the blood of Jesus; which is a new and living way..." "He hath consecrated for us, through the veil, that is to say, His flesh" (V19).

A "**Perfect**" believer may enter the "**House of God**" by Jesus, our High Priest, **draw nigh to God, hold fast** (stick to it) to the profession of faith and consider one another by "Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together," (Vs 21-25). Oh! There's so much when one is **Perfect**!

Indeed, we have a new and living way to serve the Creator. Thank you, Jesus for dying in my place; removing the sinful body and raising up to Head your people, the church. As we say, God is good, all the time. All the time...