



4050 80th Avenue North, Pinellas Park, Fl

SKYVIEW BULLETIN

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WE CAN BE PERFECT

I may not be perfect ...



but I'm perfectly adorable!

If someone suggested that we can be perfect we would probably laugh at that possibility. While being perfect might be the goal of some people, we all realize that perfection is beyond the reach of most of us. OR, IS IT?

Did you know we are commanded by Christ to be perfect? *“Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect”* (Matthew 5:48). When we read this verse we might respond by thinking “this is the ideal, not the reality.” We may even think this commandment cannot be taken seriously. We all have sinned (Romans

3:23) and therefore we have destroyed all possibilities of being perfect.

The word “perfect” in the New Testament has a wide range of applications. The Greek word is *“telios”* and can be used to refer to things that meet the highest standards. In Romans 12:2, the Bible mentions the *“perfect will of God.”* James talks about a *“perfect work”* (James 1:4). He also talks about the *“perfect gift”* that comes from the Father above, and the *“perfect law of liberty”* (James 1:25). John mentions a *“perfect love”* in 1 John 4:18).

The word “perfect” is also used to indicate completeness or maturity. One of the best examples of this application is found in 1 Corinthians 13: 10, where the “partial” revelation of God’s word is compared to the “perfect” or “complete” revelation.

Most people, when they think of perfection, think of “sinless perfection.” Their concept of perfection is someone or something that is without flaws or defects. While this may be a worthy goal to work toward, we must realize that we can never reach perfection in that sense, at least not in this life.

However, we can work toward perfection when we think of the common usage of the word. When applied to ourselves, the word means “mature,” or “full grown.” In Ephesians 4:13, we see the word used this way. Paul outlines the various gifts that were given to the early church and then explains why they were given: *“till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ. That we should be no longer children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine....”* (Ephesians 4:13,14). Thus, the goal of perfection in the sense of being complete or full grown is not only achievable, we are commanded to work toward that end. We are to grow up in Christ. We are to become adults and no longer be children. We are admonished to be like children in malice, but when it comes to understanding God’s will we are to be mature, or adults (1 Corinthians 14:20). The verse begins by saying we are not to be children in our understanding. (cont.)

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ELDERS

**Ron Bastien
Don Greenlee
Charles Murray
David Roberts**

DEACONS

**Ron Bentz
Frank Edwards
Jim Ingram
George Loyd
Andy Murray
Dennis Trask
Brad VanHaerents**

PREACHER

Charles Murray

MEN WE SUPPORT

**William Stewart--Kingston, Canada
Bob Owen — Trip to Europe
Mike Mendez —trip to Cuba**

WORSHIP TIMES

SUNDAY

**Worship.....9:30 A.M.
Classes.....10:50 A.M.
Worship.....6:00 P.M.**

WORSHIP PLACE

**4050 80th Ave N
PO Box 3118
Pinellas Park, Fla. 33780**

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Since we can be full grown or perfect in the sense of being mature, how do we reach this perfection? We need to understand, first, that we may never reach the ultimate perfection. We are to continually and constantly grow into adulthood spiritually speaking. The Hebrew letter explains that some of the Jewish Christians had failed to grow out of their infancy. *“For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you again the first principles of the oracles of God; and you have come to need milk and not solid food”* (Hebrews 5:12). The writer goes on to point out that they were unskilled in the word of righteousness because they were spiritual babes. Solid food, he said, was for those of full age, or adults (verses 13,14). The answer to their imperfection was for them to exercise their senses to determine both good and evil.

So, the answer to becoming adults is by proper exercise and proper diet. This suggests that we complete or finish what we started when we began our life as a Christian. One definition of “perfect” as given by some Greek Lexicons is “to finish something,” or to “complete or accomplish something.” It is this perfection that we can and must reach. Paul addressed a problem of immaturity among the Corinthians Christians. He said, *“Brothers, I could not address you as spiritual but as worldly — mere infants in Christ. I gave you milk, not solid food, for you were not yet ready for it. Indeed, you are still not ready”* (1 Corinthians 3:1-3). Because they were not adults, they could not digest the more solid food of God’s word.



Adult

Auditorium

New class

beginning in

January:

The Life Of Christ

GOD’S

PLAN OF SALVATION

Believe—Heb. 11:6

Repent—Luke 13:3

Confess—Rom. 10:9

Be Baptized—

Mk.16:16, Acts 2:38,

1 Pet. 3:21

Our goal, then,
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Our goal, then, should be to strive toward spiritual maturity. We need to accomplish or finish the growth process as a Christian. Our challenge is to complete a moral and spiritual excellence as we work toward perfection.

Peter explains this process in 1 Peter 1. He said, *“giving all diligence, add to your faith, virtue, to virtue knowledge, to knowledge self-control, to self-control perseverance, to perseverance godliness, to godliness brother kindness, and to brotherly kindness love. For if these things are yours and abound in you, you will be neither barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of*

our Lord Jesus Christ” (1 Peter 1:5-8). The completion of this growth process will make our calling and election sure. It will prevent us from stumbling. It will supply for us abundantly an entrance into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. The context of this passage begins with the assurance that God, through His divine power, has given us all we need to reach completeness in Him.

Where are you in your spiritual growth? Have you reached this completeness in Christ? Maybe you have stopped eating and exercising spiritually? Perhaps you have convinced yourself that you can never be the Christian God expects you to be. Take courage because God will help us. One passage that is very assuring of our perfection is found in Hebrews 10:14 and Hebrews 12:23. In 10:14, the writer says, *“for by one sacrifice He has perfected forever those who are being sanctified.”* Notice our perfection is through the sacrifice that Christ made for us. This is an everlasting or eternal perfection. In 12:23, he writes, *“to the spirits of just men made perfect.”* Perfection is possible because God loved us and sent His Son to die as a sacrifice for our sins.

How can we be perfect? We must be sanctified by the blood of Christ. We must obey His will. We must believe in Christ as God’s Son (Hebrews 11:6), we must repent of our past sins (Luke 13:3), we must confess our faith in Christ before men (Romans 10:9,10) and we must put Christ on in baptism (Galatians 3:27). When we obey God and our sins are washed away, we begin our growth as a new born babe in Christ and we grow toward maturity. We feed upon the word of God and we exercise ourselves by applying our knowledge of God’s word to our lives. We add to our faith the moral virtues that are taught in the New Testament. We leave the infant stage, where we must have the milk of God’s word and we move on to more solid food as we continue to grow toward perfection. Then when this life is over, we will can enjoy perfection to the ultimate degree. We will be sinless, sanctified by the blood of Christ and live eternally in our new perfected state.

If you are not a Christian, you need to begin your growth toward perfection. If you are a Christian, you need to accomplish what you began—you need to continue your growth toward a full grown person in Christ. **CEM**