

## **The Wednesday Word, August 17, 2022: The Perfect Christ and His Perfect Gospel - Part 1**

*2 Samuel 22:31: "As for God, His way is perfect"*

Christ is perfect (Hebrews 5:9). As a result of this perfection, His work is also perfect (Hebrews 10:14). When, from the cross, He uttered that famous word, "Finished" (John 19:30), He declared that His redemptive work for us was perfect.

What a joy to know that Christ's redemptive work is finished and complete. As we have often noted, there is nothing in it that should be out of it, and nothing out of it that should be in it.

Since Jesus is the perfect One without spot or wrinkle (1 Peter 1:18-19), everything that He touches is coloured with His perfection. He is the embodiment of 'Sinless Perfection'. That means believers are also sinlessly perfect ... in Him.

By faith, we now see the representative man standing between us and the Father. By faith, we see ourselves clothed in Christ's perfection. We no longer need to contrive ways and means by which to earn God's approval. Why scheme to obtain that which we already have?

Christ and His gospel are perfect! When we look at Jesus, we see perfect love, perfect obedience, perfect faith, perfect worship, perfect prayer, perfect grace, perfect truth and perfect righteousness. We see that this perfect Christ has forged a perfect gospel on the anvil of His own works.

Our Christian experience is not perfect, it is developing and improving. Our Christian experience, therefore, cannot be considered as being the gospel since it is not perfect. When evangelizing, if we major on our experience of Christ and about how we are growing in grace we are not ministering the gospel. Why not? Because we are not proclaiming the perfect work of God in Christ. We are not delivering that which is the power of God unto salvation (Romans 1:16). If we, on the other hand, preach Christ's experience for us on our behalf, we are building on solid gospel ground.

God, in His perfection, has demanded perfect righteousness from us. As William Cunningham said,

*"The righteousness of God is that righteousness which God's righteousness requires him to require."*

But how can we attain to such a thing? Ah! How indeed? The answer is that Christ Himself has provided this perfect, required righteousness for us. What the Father has demanded, He has provided in the man Jesus Christ, His Son. We as gospel-centered believers, will not fall for the lie that tells us that we will, in this life, attain to perfection within ourselves. Countless numbers have already shipwrecked themselves on that perilous error. Why join them?

The only perfection that brings us to heaven is Christ's. Yet there are those who insist that they have reached such a deep level of Christian experience that they, within themselves, are now sinlessly perfect. One such man once came to the preacher, John Berridge, and began boasting

about his perfection. The normally gracious minister treated him very rudely. The perfectionist then reacted and began to utter all manner of insulting words directed at the good preacher. Berridge said to him, "That's not a great perfection you have, for I was able to spoil it in just a few minutes."

You will always find those so-called "perfection" people far from perfect. They can't be trusted for, *'he that says he has no sin is a liar, and the truth of God is not in him'* (1 John 1:10). However, Christ can be trusted. He is sinlessly perfect, and we can completely rest in His perfections before the Father.

To summarise: perfection is not in us but rather in the person of Jesus Christ, alone! He is the Perfect One. Dear believer, the perfect purity of Christ's sinless life is yours! The perfect obedience of Christ is yours, the perfect goodness of Christ is yours, the perfect holiness of Christ is yours. Everything that Christ has is yours. All that you need is in Him.

And that's the Gospel Truth!