

Simply Christ

Gospel Newsletter

Sharing the simplicity that is in Christ

August 4, 2018

A Complete Salvation

Over the years I have met a few people who claimed to be perfect. I can say with confidence that their claim was “false advertising.” Their fleshly boasting, however, does not disannul the word of God. Let me be clear; I do not believe in a fleshly perfection, but I do believe the word of God. The blood of Christ will not make you to be the perfect husband or wife, the perfect pastor, or even a perfect person according to fleshly expectations, but it was shed to make you that which God had always ordained his people would be.

The Greek words the apostles usually used for “perfect” and “perfection” in the scriptures simple mean “complete” and “completion.” To help us understand what this “completion” is, we can look at examples Jesus gave of things that were incomplete. He said, *“ye make clean the outside of the cup and of the platter, but within they are full of extortion and excess.”* Matthew 23:25
What is more incomplete than a cup that has been washed on the outside, but inside it is filled with filth? Have you ever picked up a fork at a restaurant only to see dried food still caked on it? Whoever washed it did not complete their job. Jesus also spoke about those who were like *“whited sepulchres, which indeed appear beautiful outward, but are within full of dead men's bones, and of all uncleanness.”?* Matthew 23:27.
On the outside these had the appearance of life,

but in their heart death still reigned. In these statements Jesus is describing the inability of religious works to make anything complete. People do things to change themselves outwardly, but on the inside nothing changes. Jesus deals directly with this “incomplete sanctification” when he tells us, *“Ye have heard that it was said by them of old time, Thou shalt not commit adultery: But I say unto you, That whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart.”* Matthew 5:27-28 Abstaining from adultery and fornication is good, but the person with adultery in their heart is still an adulterer before God. They are very “incomplete.”

David gave us insight concerning the completion Christ brings us through the gospel when he said, *“Behold, thou desirest truth in the inward parts: and in the hidden part thou shalt make me to know wisdom.”* Psalms 51:6. David had fallen into adultery, and to cover his actions he had Bathsheba’s husband killed. On the outside David could magnify the Lord in words and song and tell of the virtues of righteousness, but on the inside it was lie. David had become the “filthy cup” and the “whited sepulcher” that Jesus spoke of. In his repentance he cried for an answer that would only come to mankind through the shed blood of Jesus Christ. He cried, *“Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean: wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow... Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me.”* Psalms 51:7, 10. It is only when God fulfills this request that any person will have *“truth in the inward parts”* and be complete before God.

The apostle Paul said, *“Therefore leaving the principles of the doctrine of Christ, let us go on unto perfection (completion)....”* Hebrews 6:1. He then uses the remainder of his letter to the Hebrews to “go on” and explain what this completion is and to let us know that its only source is the shed blood of Christ. Paul uses the weakness of the Law to give us insight into what true completeness is. He tells us that the sacrifices and offerings of the Law *“could not make him that did the service perfect, **as pertaining to the conscience.**”* Hebrews 9:9, The conscience spoken of here is a *“moral consciousness”* which is *“the inner most thoughts and feelings”* of a person. Carnal religion can never complete the job of sanctification, because it cannot wash your inner thoughts and feelings. This is where Paul tells us about the completion Christ brings to us. He wrote, *“For if the blood of bulls and of goats, and the ashes of an heifer sprinkling the unclean, sanctifieth to the purifying of the flesh: How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, **purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?**”* Hebrews 9:13-14.

The *“waters of purification”* Numbers 19 under the Law could give you a bath, but its washing was only “skin deep.” Its sanctification was only *“to the purifying of the flesh.”* The blood of Christ, however, washes all the way to the deepest thoughts and feelings of those who trust in Christ. It will wash you from the dead works of religion, and it will wash you from the dead works of sin. This is not common blood. It is the blood of the eternal Christ who became flesh for you and me! This simple “completion” offered us through the shed blood of Christ is more precious than all the

grandeur of someone's supposed super spirituality. How many times have we seen so called spiritual giants fall into sin and shame because of the content of their own heart? Yet a newborn babe in Christ can have this wonderful completion, which is simply *"clean hands and a pure heart"* through the shed blood of Christ.

In his *"going on unto perfection,"* the apostle Paul finally takes us to source and fulfillment of true completion. He says, *"For by one offering he hath perfected(completed) forever them that are sanctified."* Hebrews 10:14. The blood of Christ is the only thing that can ever "cleanse the cup" both outside and within. It is such a shame that so many have forgotten the simple truth that Jesus Christ, who shed his blood for our sanctification, is both the author and the finisher of our faith.

When Paul wrote *"For the law made nothing perfect..."* Hebrews 7:19 he was using the Law as an example of the weakness of ALL carnal religion. Under the guise of *"going on unto perfection,"* God's people have been led away from Christ's blood, unto every unprofitable thing imaginable. The list of such things is almost endless: The Law of Moses, the Ten Commandments, self-crucifixion, renewing the mind with precepts and principles, steps to holiness, will power, positive confession, philosophy, spiritualism, how to books and methods, three steps, five steps, ten steps, etc. When I consider all the things that are offered to God's people for their completion other than full and simple faith in the shed blood of Christ, the futility of it all reminds me of a line from an old gospel hymn which says:

***What can wash away my sin?
Nothing but the blood of Jesus!***