

LESSON 3



JESUS WAS PERFECT

Scripture Texts: *1 Corinthians 8:6; John 10:17-18; Hebrews 7:26; Colossians 1:19*

We have seen that Jesus is both human and divine. In His humanity He draws near to us in a common feeling. We understand more about this side of His personality since we share human experiences. On the other hand, His divinity may seem further away and be more difficult for one to understand. The quality of perfection brings the two together and helps us to understand what is included in Jesus for mankind. Let us look at the Bible for some help on the meaning of godly perfection.

MEMORY VERSE: *Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect.*

Matthew 5:48

A Perfect Creator and Ruler

First Corinthians 8:6 Lord Jesus Christ, by whom are all things . . . We look at one who studies a single line of knowledge until he becomes an expert and call him a genius. Yet, he may have only scratched the surface on that subject. Now consider the One **by whom are all things**. ALL, not one line only. It took a perfect Creator to bring about a perfect creation. All creation depends upon His perfect rule. The sun and planets move at His direction. Man sets time by them. Ships are guided and kept on their course by Him. All things obey perfectly His natural laws. **And we by him**. Your and my life, breath, thought, motions, and complete existence depends upon Him for perfect operation. **In him we live, and move, and have our being** (Acts 17:28). Jesus Christ possesses **all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge** (Colossians 2:3). He did not learn knowledge; He made it. And wisdom, the ability to use knowledge in the best way. Jesus is Master of these. By them He made the worlds. By them He rules. He created perfectly. He rules perfectly. He does all in unity with the Father and the Spirit.

A Perfect Salvation

John 10:17-18 Jesus has power over His own life, can **lay it down and take it again**. He exercised that power at His crucifixion and resurrection. No one took Jesus' life; He gave it. To give it was His purpose in coming (Matthew 20:28). Jesus lived a perfect life and through Him only are our lives made perfect. Not perfection in the eyes of men, but perfect in that we do the will of God (Hebrews 13:20-21). He is **alive for evermore**. Jesus can say, **I am . . . the life**. Jesus has eternal life and He can give eternal spiritual life. There is no greater mark of perfection than this. Jesus can give perfect victory over every foe who would rob us of this eternal life. If we stay in His hand no enemy can remove us.

Perfect salvation is not partial—saving one from some sins and leaving him in others. It does not remove the punishment while leaving the sin. Perfect salvation is not that which some of the church world is teaching—that Christians sin, that simply believing on Christ brings forgiveness of both past and future sins, and that Christ cannot give one power to keep from sinning (Jude 24). Christ's death did not atone for just part of our sins and leave us to atone for the rest by suffering in purgatory. One cannot fall so low as to be beyond the power of Christ to save.

Salvation reaches as deep as the stain of sin has gone (Isaiah 1:18). **He is able also to save them to the uttermost**—to the fullest extent (Hebrews 7:25). All who **come unto God by him**. All who come believing Him, who repent of sin and trust Him. This is the only way. It is a perfect salvation, cleansing from all sin here and providing a deathless body hereafter.

A Perfect Holiness

Hebrews 7:26 Christ was never stained by sin. He had perfect victory over every temptation. Both His acts and His Words are holy because He is holy (I Peter 2:22). He is **higher than the heavens**. Holiness is more than the absence of sin. It is the presence of perfect godliness, the quality of God. Godliness is the predominating ingredient of holiness, since it is the producer of sinlessness. Being perfect is holiness. Only Christ has power to make us holy. Only holy people can dwell with Him.

Complete Perfection

Colossians 1:19 **In him should all fulness dwell**. In Christ are all the qualities of God in their fullest or perfect extent. Perfect wisdom, perfect power, perfect love, perfect mercy, the list is endless. Possessing these does not make Him perfect. He possesses them because He is perfect. It **pleased the Father** that His Son should have **all fulness**, a complete and perfect God. The Father's pleasure in this shows the love and unity that exists among the Trinity, binding Father, Son, and Holy Spirit into one perfect unit.

Matthew 5:48 This is of great value to us. A perfect Savior laid a perfect sacrifice on God's altar. That perfect sacrifice bought a perfect salvation. His perfect love brought it all to pass and obtained a perfect way for all sinners to have a perfect hope to be saved now and eternally.

JUST A THOUGHT

**Perfection is not reaching a human goal in life
but faithfulness in serving the Lord.**

This lesson is adapted from a lesson by Mary Lehmann.
It is revised and posted here with written permission from
(c) Bible Paths Publications, PO Box 299, Keithville, LA 71047