Just Perfect

Tony Mauck · Matthew 5:48

INTRODUCTION

- Therefore, you are to be perfect, just as your heavenly Father is perfect.
- Whatever Jesus meant by this statement, there must be something in this that incorporates God's fix for our failings.
- This statement goes to the very heart of what a true disciple is all about. Don't run from this verse. Don't be afraid of it.

1 What Perfect Means: Seek His Standard Always

1 Corinthians 14:20; Leviticus 11:44; 1 Peter 1:14

- So we're talking about the completeness of Christian character. It is the Greek word telios from telos, which means consummated goal.
- Brethren, do not be children in your thinking. Yet in evil be babes, but in your thinking be teleas. In your thinking be mature.
- Jesus here in this statement eliminates all human standards of morality and conduct.
- They are not the standard. They have not achieved it. Don't settle for less than the ultimate. Seek his standard. Always.
- Perfect holiness has always been the standard for God's people.
- Do not be conformed to the former lusts which were yours in your ignorance, but what? Be holy in all your behavior.

2 Imitate the Father: Direction Is the Test

2 Peter 1:11

- I think he's saying, your father isn't the norm, and you're not either.
- He's saying imitate the Father's kindness. Imitate his generosity with others. Sacrifice for the welfare and benefit of others. Pursue spiritual growth.
- Perfection is the standard. Direction is the test.
- In what direction are you going? Are you making a sincere, diligent attempt at imitation, at the holiness of God for your life?
- If these qualities are yours and are increasing, you see, we're moving in the direction.
- God is assisting in these efforts. If we just point ourselves toward the goal, then heaven is going to help.

3 We Are Not There Yet

Galatians 6:1; 1 Corinthians 14:37

- Let us never forget that we have fallen short of that standard and are in desperate need of forgiveness.
- I've been saying to you for eight years that I am not perfect in the sense of having reached this goal.
- It doesn't use the word teleos or perfect. It's pneumaticos. You who are spiritual. They're not perfect, but they're striving toward it.
- Whatever excellence you achieve, whatever heights of spiritual productivity that you attain, you are only there because of him.
- We are all just a collection of not there yet.

THE CHALLENGE

And you can ignore it, you can wish it away, you can act like it's not there. But if there is a burden of sin upon your account, you need it lifted.

MY NOTES