



MORE ABOUT JESUS PART 6

PERFECTION ONLY IN CHRIST

Throughout the history of the church, sincere Christians have taken striving for holiness to extremes resulting in pietism, sanctificationism, perfectionism, legalism, extreme monasticism, and pharisaism.

But these extreme forms of righteousness by works need not be. Because the Gospel results in holier, more sanctified lives than perfectionism ever could. How? By beholding Jesus, we become changed (2 Corinthians 3:18)!

As we spend time with Jesus through personal Prayer, Bible reading, and Sharing, the Holy Spirit will change us into His image. No wonder Paul proclaimed, "For I am not ashamed of the Gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes." Romans 1:16. Amen and Amen!

Section 1 — Scripture Quotes

Section 2 — 27 Fundamental Beliefs Quotes

Section 3 — Ellen White Quotes

SECTION 1 — SCRIPTURE QUOTES

Philippians 3:3,8,9 (NKJV). "3 For we are the circumcision, who worship God in the Spirit, rejoice in Christ Jesus, and have no confidence in the flesh,...8 Yet indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ⁹ and be found in Him, not having my own righteousness, which is from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which is from God by faith."

Ecclesiastes 7:20 (NKJV). "20 For there is not a just man on earth who does good and does not sin."

Psalms 14:1-3 (NKJV). "1 The fool has said in his heart, 'There is no God.' They are corrupt, They have done abominable works, There is none who does good. 2The Lord looks down from heaven upon the children of men, to see if there are any who understand, who seek God. 3They have all turned aside, they have together become corrupt; there is none who does good, no, not one."

Romans 3:10-12 (NKJV). "10As it is written: 'There is none righteous, no, not one; 11There is none who understands; there is none who seeks after God. 12They have all turned aside; they have together become unprofitable; there is none who does good, no, not one.'"

Romans 3:20-23 (NKJV). "20Therefore by the deeds of the law no flesh will be justified in His sight, for by the law is the knowledge of sin. 21But now the righteousness of God apart from the law is revealed, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets,22even the righteousness of God, through faith in Jesus Christ, to all and on all who believe. For there is no difference;23for all have sinned [*aorist indicative*] and fall short [*present continuous tense*] of the glory of God."

Romans 6:23 (NKJV). "23For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."

Isaiah 64:6 (NKJV). "6But we are all like an unclean thing, And all our righteousnesses are like filthy rags; We all fade as a leaf, And our iniquities, like the wind, Have taken us away."

Isaiah 55:8,9 (NKJV). "8For My thoughts are not your thoughts, Nor are your ways My ways,' says the Lord. 'For as the heavens are higher than the earth, So are My ways higher than your ways, And My thoughts than your thoughts.'"



MORE ABOUT JESUS PART 6

PERFECTION ONLY IN CHRIST

Daniel 9:7,11,20 (NKJV). “7O Lord, righteousness belongs to You, but to us shame of face, as it is this day-to the men of Judah, to the inhabitants of Jerusalem and all Israel, those near and those far off in all the countries to which You have driven them, because of the unfaithfulness which they have committed against You. 11Yes, all Israel has transgressed Your law, and has departed so as not to obey Your voice; therefore the curse and the oath written in the Law of Moses the servant of God have been poured out on us, because we have sinned against Him. 20Now while I was speaking, praying, and confessing my sin and the sin of my people Israel, and presenting my supplication before the Lord my God for the holy mountain of my God.”

1 John 1:8,9 (NKJV). “8If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. 9If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”

Ephesians 2:8-10 (NKJV). “8For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, 9not of works, lest anyone should boast. 10For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.”

Matthew 19:17 (NKJV). “17 So He said to him, ‘Why do you call Me good? No one is good but One, that is, God.’”

Mark 10:18 (NKJV). “18So Jesus said to him, ‘Why do you call Me good? No one is good but One, that is, God.’”

Luke 18:19 (NKJV). “19So Jesus said to him, ‘Why do you call Me good? No one is good but One, that is, God.’”

Luke 17:10 (NKJV). “10So likewise you, when you have done all those things which you are commanded, say, ‘We are unprofitable servants.’”

Revelation 15:4 (NKJV). “4 Who shall not fear You, O Lord, and glorify Your name? For You alone are holy. For all nations shall come and worship before You, For Your judgments have been manifested.”

Titus 3:5 (NKJV). “5Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit.”

1 Corinthians 1:30 (NKJV). “30But of Him you are in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God-and righteousness and sanctification and redemption.”

Jeremiah 23:6 (NKJV). “6In His days Judah will be saved, And Israel will dwell safely; Now this is His name by which He will be called: THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS.”



MORE ABOUT JESUS PART 6

PERFECTION ONLY IN CHRIST

SECTION 2 — 27 FUNDAMENTAL BELIEFS QUOTES pp. 127-131

“In the Old Testament, when used of humans, the word has a relative sense. Noah, Abraham, and Job were each described as perfect or blameless (Genesis 6:9; 17:1; 22:18; Job 1:1,18) though each had imperfections (Genesis 9:21; 20; Job 1: 1, 18).”

“In the New Testament perfect often describes mature persons who have lived up to the best available light and attained, the potential of their spiritual, mental and physical powers (cf. 1 Corinthians 14:20; Philippians 3:15; Hebrews 5:14). Believers are to be perfect in their finite sphere. Christ said, as God is perfect in His infinite and absolute sphere (cf. Matthew 5:48). In God's sight, a perfect person is one whose heart and life are wholly surrendered, to the worship and service of God, who is constantly growing in divine knowledge, and who is, through God's grace, living up to all the light he has received while rejoicing in a life of victory. (cf. Colossians 4:12; James 3:2).”

“Full perfection in Christ. How may we become perfect? The Holy Spirit brings to us the perfection of Christ. By faith Christ's perfect character becomes ours. People can never claim that perfection independently as if it were their innate possession, or theirs by right. Perfection is a gift of God. Apart from Christ human beings cannot obtain righteousness. “‘He who abides in Me, and I in him,’ He said, ‘bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing’ (John 15:5). It is Christ ‘who became for us wisdom from God-and sanctification and redemption’ (1 Corinthians 1:30).”

“In Christ these qualities constitute our perfection. He completed, once and for all our sanctification and redemption. No one can add to what He has done.. Our wedding garment, or robe of righteousness, was wrought out by Christ's life, death, and resurrection. The Holy Spirit now takes the finished product and works it out in the Christian's life. In this way we can “be filled with all the fullness of God (Ephesians 3:19).”

“Glorification and Perfection. Some incorrectly believe the ultimate perfection that glorification will bring is already available to humans. But of himself, Paul, that dedicated man of God, wrote near the end of his life, ‘not that I have already attained or am already perfected; but I press on, that I may lay hold of that for which Christ Jesus has also laid hold of me. Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus’ (Philippians 3:12-14).”

“Sanctification is a lifelong process. Perfection now is ours only in Christ, but the ultimate, all-comprehensive transformation of our lives of our lives into the image of God will take place at the Second Advent. Paul cautions: ‘Let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall’ (1 Corinthians 10:12).”

“The history of Israel and the lives of David, Solomon, and Peter are serious warnings for all. ‘As long as life shall last, there is need of guarding the affections and the passions with a firm purpose. There is inward corruption there are outward temptations, and wherever the work of God shall be advanced, Satan plans so to arrange circumstances that temptation shall come with overpowering force upon the soul. Not one moment can we be secure only as we are relying upon God, the life hid with Christ in God.”

“Our final creative transformation is accomplished when incorruptibility and immortality become ours, when the Holy Spirit completely restores the original creation.”

“The Ground of Our Acceptance With God. Neither Christlike character traits nor faultless behavior is the ground of our acceptance with God. Saving righteousness comes from the one righteous Man, Jesus, and



MORE ABOUT JESUS PART 6 **PERFECTION ONLY IN CHRIST**

is conveyed to us by the Holy Spirit. We can contribute nothing to Christ's gift of righteousness; we can only receive it. No one other than Christ is righteous (Romans 3:10); independent human righteousness is only filthy rags (Isaiah 64:6; see also Daniel 9:7,11,20; 1 Corinthians 1:30)."

"Even what we do in response to Christ's saving love cannot form the basis of our acceptance with God."



MORE ABOUT JESUS PART 6

PERFECTION ONLY IN CHRIST

SECTION 3 — ELLEN WHITE QUOTES

“We must love him more, obtain more of His attractive beauty and grace of character, and cease the contemplation of others' mistakes and errors. We should remember that our own ways are not faultless. We make mistakes again and again...No one is perfect but Jesus.” {TIMKH 136}

“There is not a point that needs to be dwelt upon more earnestly, repeated more frequently, or established more firmly in the minds of all than the impossibility of fallen man meriting anything by his own best good works. Salvation is through faith in Jesus Christ alone. If any man can merit salvation by anything he may do, then he is in the same position as the Catholic to do penance for his sins.” {FW 18-20}

“If you would gather together everything that is good and holy and noble and lovely in man and then present the subject to the angels of God as acting a part in the salvation of the human soul or in merit, the proposition would be rejected as treason.” {FW 24.1}

“Let no one take the limited, narrow position that any of the works of man can help in the least possible way to liquidate the debt of his transgression. This is a fatal deception...All that man can possibly do toward his own salvation is to accept the invitation, ‘Whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely’ (Revelation 22:17).” {1SM 343}

“The religious services, the prayers, the praise, the penitent confession of sin ascend from true believers as incense to the heavenly sanctuary, but passing through the corrupt channels of humanity, they are so defiled that unless purified by blood, they can never be of value with God. They ascend not in spotless purity, and unless the Intercessor, who is at God's right hand, presents and purifies all by His righteousness, it is not acceptable to God...Oh, that all may see that everything in obedience, in penitence, in praise and thanksgiving, must be placed upon the glowing fire of the righteousness of Christ.” {1SM 344, 345.}

“Neither Joseph, Daniel, nor any of the apostles claimed to be without sin. Men who have lived nearest to God, men who would sacrifice life itself rather than to knowingly sin against Him, men whom God has honored with divine light and power, have acknowledged themselves to be sinners, unworthy of His great favors. They have felt their weakness and, sorrowful for their sins, have tried to copy the pattern Jesus Christ.” {FW 43}

“Perfection through our own good works we can never attain. The soul who sees Jesus by faith, repudiates his own righteousness. He sees himself as incomplete, his repentance insufficient, his strongest faith but feebleness, his most costly sacrifice as meager, and he sinks in humility at the foot of the cross.” {FW 107.108}

“So long as Satan reigns, we shall have self to subdue, besetting sins to overcome; so long as life shall last, there will be no stopping place, no point which we can reach and say, I have fully attained. Sanctification is the result of lifelong obedience.” {AA 560}

“It was possible for Adam, before the fall, to form a righteous character by obedience to God's law. But he failed to do this, and because of his sin our natures are fallen and we cannot make ourselves righteous. Since we are sinful, unholy, we cannot perfectly obey the holy law. We have no righteousness of our own with which to meet the claims of the law of God. But Christ has made a way of escape for us. He lived on earth amid trials and temptations such as we have to meet. He lived a sinless life. He died for us, and now He offers to take our sins and give us His righteousness.” {SC 62.2}



MORE ABOUT JESUS PART 6

PERFECTION ONLY IN CHRIST

“There are those who have known the pardoning love of Christ and who really desire to be children of God, yet they realize that their character is imperfect, their life faulty, and they are ready to doubt whether their hearts have been renewed by the Holy Spirit. To such I would say, Do not draw back in despair. We shall often have to bow down and weep at the feet of Jesus because of our shortcomings and mistakes, but we are not to be discouraged. Even if we are overcome by the enemy, we are not cast off, not forsaken and rejected of God. No; Christ is at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us. Said the beloved John, ‘These things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous.’ 1 John 2:1. And do not forget the words of Christ, ‘The Father Himself loveth you.’ John 16:27.” {SC 64, 65}

“While we cannot do anything to change our hearts or to bring ourselves into harmony with God; while we must not trust at all to ourselves or our good works, our lives will reveal whether the grace of God is dwelling within us. A change will be seen in the character, the habits, the pursuits. The contrast will be clear and decided between what they have been and what they are. The character is revealed, not by occasional good deeds and occasional misdeeds, but by the tendency of the habitual words and acts.” {SC 57}