

Lesson 25
Perfect In Christ Jesus

Col 1:28-29 Whom we preach, warning every man, and teaching every man in all wisdom; that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus:29 Whereunto I also labour, striving according to his working, which worketh in me mightily.KJV

I. Paul Warns

- a. The Greek word for warning used here means to put in mind; to admonish; to exhort.
- b. Paul's admonition to the hearers was that they should attend to the doctrinal instruction which he provided.
- c. This "warning" refers to conduct and leads to repentance, warning is addressed to the heart. Prov 4:1-9;
- d. Warning fellow believers is a responsibility we all bear because it opens the eyes of the heart to recognize an existing or potential problem, and makes restoration possible. Gal 6:1
- e. Unless and until one recognizes a problem, one is powerless to do anything about it. Prov 5:1-8; 7:21-28

What are some examples of how the scripture warns us? When we see in the pages of scripture that we have a sin nature we are being warned.

- f. When we warn people of what they do amiss, we must teach them what to do in place of those things that are error. Warning and teaching must go together. Col3:8-9
- g. Exhortation and warning are of little use where there is not sound instruction and a careful inculcation of the truth. Prov 2:1-7
- h. For example, warning of a problem does little to help one avoid falling into the pitfalls and traps of life in flesh until one is taught to distinguish between spirit and the flesh. Gal 5:17

II. Paul Teaches

- a. "Teaching" strengthens faith, refers to doctrine, and is addressed to the spirit. 1 Cor 2:4-12
- b. It is when we have knowledge that we are empowered in our spirit with the ability to choose. Ps 25:12-14
- c. Men must be warned and taught in all wisdom. Col 1:9; Prov 1:20, 23; Rom 12:1-2
- d. Understanding (application) of this wisdom is found primarily by the activity of ruminating on the word of God. Ps 119:99
- e. As the word of God is taught by men, the Holy Spirit works in hearts to illuminate, correct and train those whom the Lord seeks to influence. 2 Tim 3:16

III The Goal of "Perfection"

- a. That which Paul aimed at was to present every man perfect in Christ Jesus.
- b. This means mature/ complete in the transforming knowledge of Christ and the Christian doctrine. Phil 3:8-15; Eph 3:17-19; 2 Tim 3:17
- c. There are two purposes behind this transformation: Temporal and Eternal
 1. Temporal: To cause the individual believer to be utterly sold out and committed to Christ in all things and at all times. Gal 2:20; Col 3:1-2

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2. Eternal: To bring **glory to Christ** when he presents to himself a glorious church through the spirits of just men made perfect. Eph 5:27; Heb 12:23.
- d. Paul's labor, striving and hardship were **enabled** by the surpassing power of the indwelling Holy Spirit. Eph 3:7

IV. Application

- a. Do you have a part to play in cooperating with the Holy Spirit toward the goal of your own process of maturing?
- b. If so, what can you do?

Spurgeon's Daily Devotional

"He hath said" If we can only grasp these words by faith, we have an all-conquering weapon in our hand. What doubt will not be slain by this two-edged sword? What fear is there which shall not fall smitten with a deadly wound before this arrow from the bow of God's covenant? Will not the distresses of life and the pangs of death; will not the corruptions within, and the snares without; will not the trials from above, and the temptations from beneath, all seem but light afflictions, when we can hide ourselves beneath the bulwark of "He hath said"? Yes; whether for delight in our quietude, or for strength in our conflict, "He hath said" must be our daily resort. And this may teach us the extreme value of searching the Scriptures. There may be a promise in the Word which would exactly fit your case, but you may not know of it, and therefore you miss its comfort. You are like prisoners in a dungeon, and there may be one key in the bunch which would unlock the door, and you might be free; but if you will not look for it, you may remain a prisoner still, though liberty is so near at hand. There may be a potent medicine in the great pharmacopoeia of Scripture, and you may yet continue sick unless you will examine and search the Scriptures to discover what "He hath said." Should you not, besides reading the Bible, store your memories richly with the promises of God? You can recollect the sayings of great men; you treasure up the verses of renowned poets; ought you not to be profound in your knowledge of the words of God, so that you may be able to quote them readily when you would solve a difficulty, or overthrow a doubt? Since "He hath said" is the source of all wisdom, and the fountain of all comfort, let it dwell in you richly, as "A well of water, springing up unto everlasting life." So shall you grow healthy, strong, and happy in the divine life.

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