Kingdom of Priests Series "Let Us Go on To Perfection" Sunday, February 26, 2023 Senior Pastor, Dr. Janet Cook

Hebrews 6:1- Therefore leaving the principles of the doctrine of Christ, **let us go on unto perfection;** not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works, and of faith toward God, of the doctrine of baptisms, and of laying on of hands, and of resurrection of the dead, and of eternal judgment. And this will we do if God permit. (KJV)

• We are commanded to leave the elementary teachings about Christ and to move on to maturity.

God's grace begins where human ability ends.

Matthew 5:43- 48 "You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you, that you may be sons of your Father in heaven; for He makes His sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust.

⁴For if you love those who love you, what reward have you? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? And if you greet your brethren only, what do you do more *than others*? Do not even the tax collectors do so? Therefore, you shall be perfect, just as your Father in heaven is perfect."

Perfect

- 1. Mature
- 2. Complete
- 3. Perfection is dealing right with everyone

Ephesians 4:13 ...until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ. (ESV)

The process that leads to perfection.

Romans 5:5 Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us.

• The love of God has been poured into our hearts and has to be worked out in our life.

Philippians 2:12-13 Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure.

• Through the new birth we receive the nature of Christ and it has to be worked out which becomes character.

Hebrews 5:8-9 ...though He was a Son, yet He learned obedience by the things which He suffered. And having been perfected, He became the author of eternal salvation to all who obey

Him, called by God as High Priest "according to the order of Melchizedek," of whom we have much to say, and hard to explain, since you have become dull of hearing.

• We learn by obeying

The Foundation of:

- 1. Repentance from dead works
- 2. Faith Toward God
- 3. The doctrine of baptisms
- 4. The Laying on of hands
- 5. Resurrection of the dead
- 6. Eternal judgment

Hebrews 9:14 How much more, then, will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself unblemished to God, <u>cleanse our consciences from acts that lead to death, so</u> that we may serve the living God! (NIV)

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Let Us Draw Near with a True Heart

Hebrews 10:19-25 Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the holy places by the blood of Jesus, by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain, that is, through his flesh, and since we have a great priest over the house of God, <u>let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.</u>

We are to draw near to God with 4 characteristics.

- 1. A true heart.
- 2. In full assurance of faith James 1:6-8 But when you ask, you must believe and not doubt, because the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind. That person should not expect to receive anything from the Lord. Such a person is double-minded and unstable in all they do.
- 3. With our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience. A clean conscience allows people to enter God's presence with boldness.
- 4. And our bodies washed with pure water this washing speaks of an internal cleansing from sin. Once cleansed, Christians can approach God.

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