*Monday, September 23, 2013*

**Perfect**

Matthew 5:46-48 For if ye love them which love you, what reward have ye? Do not even the publicans the same? 47 And if ye salute your brethren only, what do you more than others? Do not even the publicans so? 48 Be ye therefore perfect, even as you’re Father which is in heaven is perfect. (KJV)

When you see the word perfect being mentioned above it refers to maturity. Once you accept salvation as your new found way of life, you find that you can no longer compare yourself to those of this world; rather, the standards you live by are determined by the Lord. As you see above, God’s ways and thoughts totally contradict those we have been brought up with. You also find that in order to maintain peace with God it is according to spiritual maturity, not just reaching a certain age.

James 3:1-2 My brethren, be not many masters, knowing that we shall receive the greater condemnation. 2 For in many things we offend all. If any man offend not in word, the same is a perfect man, and able also to bridle the whole body. (KJV)

If you read the entire book of James you will find the statement being made that we as believers in Christ should learn to be much quicker to hear, and slower to speak. We are encouraged not to be like the many who have assumed the position of teaching doctrines before they hear them first hand from God Himself. We all sin and fall short of the glory of God; however, one of the things that offends our Father the most is false teachings.

James 3:3-5 Behold, we put bits in the horses' mouths that they may obey us; and we turn about their whole body. 4 Behold also the ships, which though they be so great, and are driven of fierce winds, yet are they turned about with a very small helm, whithersoever the governor listed. 5 Even so the tongue is a little member, and boasts great things. Behold how great a matter a little fire kindles! (KJV)

Only you can prevent spiritual fires that are fanned with winds of false doctrines that are dry and make good kindling. God’s people, those that He considers mature or perfect, are the ones that have rivers of living waters coming out of them like a fire hydrant.

James 3:6-8 And the tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity: so is the tongue among our members, that it defiles the whole body, and sets on fire the course of nature; and it is set on fire of hell. 7 For every kind of beasts, and of birds, and of serpents, and of things in the sea, is tamed, and hath been tamed of mankind: 8 But the tongue can no man tame; it is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison. (KJV)

Your tongue is an extension of your heart; so what you allow into the heart is what will be coming out of the mouth. You cannot tame your heart or keep it bridled without some divine intervention.

1 Corinthians 13:9-11 For we know in part, and we prophesy in part. 10 But when that which is perfect is come, then that which is in part shall be done away. 11 When I was a child, I spoke as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child: but when I became a man, I put away childish things. (KJV)

The middle wall of partition was broken down by the sacrifice of our Lord so that we could see and operate with a more mature understanding of how the plan of salvation really operates. You will find that by speaking things you know, and not something that you just hear from others will go a long way toward you maturing in Christ the way He intended to see you, perfected.

God bless dearly loved, and have a prosperous day in Christ Jesus our Lord.