

Considered Perfect for All Time

Hebrews 10:14

To be blind or oblivious to this wrath of God against sinners is incredibly dangerous, like not being able to smell the gas leak gathering around the pilot light of your water heater. "When Simon Peter saw [the power of Jesus in the great catch of fish], he fell down at Jesus' feet, saying, 'Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord!'" (Luke 5:8). We have lost a sense of God declaring "I am angry with this generation" (Heb. 3:10) and how *it's a fearful and dreadful thing to fall into the hands of the living God* (Heb. 10:31).

I. A Sweet Promise

"For by one offering He has perfected for all time those who are sanctified." The tenses of the words "perfected" and "sanctified" are extremely important. The act of perfecting is viewed as complete:

A. Christ has perfected me completely.

He has done it. Christ's people are perfected now in the sense that God puts away all our sin (9:26), forgives us, and never brings sin to mind again as a ground of condemnation. In this sense we stand before Him perfect. When He looks on us he does not impute any of our sins against us, past, present or future. He does not count our sins against us because of Christ.

B. Christ has perfected me for all time.

It is this utter and complete dependence on Christ that is the means of your perfection. It is the awareness that the essence of the Christian faith is trust in Christ and not trust in myself!

II. A Strange Paradox

Christ has perfected once and for all those who are being perfected (two words; two tenses). He has sanctified those who are now being sanctified. Christ sees the end (*teleos*; has perfected) those whom He is now making holy (*hagios*). The NAS translation, *"those who are sanctified,"* at the end of the verse, makes it look **in English** as if the sanctifying work **in us** is also complete (sanctified). The last verb is better translated with the English present tense as it is in the New International Version. NIV *"By one sacrifice he has made perfect forever those who are being made holy."* Think about it!

Let's see if we can restate the principle because it is full of encouragement for imperfect sinners like us, and full of motivation for holiness. This verse means that you can have assurance that you stand perfected and completed in the eyes of your heavenly Father not because you are perfect now, but precisely because you are not perfect. You are "being sanctified" and "being made holy" by God. By faith in God's promises, you are moving away from your lingering imperfection toward more and more holiness. (See Heb. 10:32-35; 11:24-26 for examples of how faith in future grace sanctifies.)

Here is the principle in succinct form: **Hebrews locates the decisive purging of believers in the past with respect to its accomplishment and in the present with respect to its enjoyment.**

- (1). Place your focus on God's commitment to you and not so much on your commitment to God.
- (2). View your life through the eyes of God and measure your growth through the eyes of others.
- (3). God never is guilty of poor workmanship and never wastes time or experience so rest in Him.

III. A Singular Purpose

Next week we will begin to focus on the truth that God has placed His (zoe) life within us, and the motto for each of us is simply: *"God is most glorified in us when we are most satisfied in Him!"*