

In *Captain America: Civil War*, Hawkeye says of his golf game: “Well, I played 18, I shot 18. I just can’t seem to miss.” In *The Scout*, Brendan Fraser plays a baseball player who throws 81 pitches, all strikes, in the perfect, perfect game.

Perfection is a goal we set before ourselves in every arena of life, not just sports. We want to be the perfect spouse, the perfect parent, the perfect employee/employer. We are sold products on the premise that they help us be closer to “perfect.” Our society and culture encourage us to pursue the perfect body, the perfect family, and the perfect life (albeit, their definition of perfect may be different than yours and mine).

I have never met someone who thought perfection was a bad thing. I’ve even met some people who thought they were perfect. But as we have seen in our study this year, perfection is unattainable due to the sin sickness that ravages mankind. It is a sickness that all of humanity freely chooses to be infected by and it ruins our chances at attaining perfection.

Or does it? This morning, as we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus, we will see that perfection is not entirely impossible. It may be impossible for us to live perfectly in this world and in this life, but because of God’s grace and Jesus’ victory over death, perfection will one day be attained by all those who place their faith in Jesus as their Savior and surrender to him as Lord.

God has promised his people perfection.

Scripture: 1 Cor. 15:50-58

- I. God’s Promise of Perfection
 - A. **The Predicament** (50)
 - 1. Flesh & blood can’t inherit the kingdom of God
 - a) Synonyms
 - (1) Flesh
 - (a) Corrupt & Mortal
 - (2) Kingdom of God
 - (a) Incorrupt & Immortal
 - B. **The Promise** (51)
 - 1. We will all be changed
 - a) We = followers/disciples
 - b) Will = at the return of Christ (52)
 - c) All = whether dead or alive
 - d) Be changed (53-54a)
 - (1) Corruptible to incorruptible
 - (2) Mortal to immortal
 - (3) 1 Cor. 15:42-44
 - C. **The Praise** (54b-57)
 - 1. Death has been defeated
 - a) Swallowed up
 - b) No more sting of sin
 - c) No more power
 - 2. Victory through Jesus
 - a) His victory secured our victory
 - (1) Rom. 6:10

(2) 1 Peter 3:18

D. The Practical (58)

1. Be steadfast, immovable
 - a) Settled and unmovable from God's truth
 - (1) Eph. 4:14
 - (2) 2 Tim. 4:3-4
 - (3) Col. 1:23
2. Be excelling in the Lord's work
 - a) Abounding = continually doing
3. Be certain that it's not in vain
 - a) Labor = suggests hardship and suffering
 - b) There is reward awaiting the diligent servant

Perfection seems like a pipe dream. Anyone with any life experience must recognize that it is not only elusive, it's impossible. Humanity is forever fatally flawed and as we have seen in our study up to this point, we chose to be flawed when we exchanged worship of God for the worship of God's creation. We chose to exchange God's truth for lies and myths of our own making.

The only path to perfection passes through the shed blood of Jesus Christ. But unfortunately, many churches and religions peddle an unbiblical perfection. They sell you on the idea that the perfection God offers us can be attained in this life. "If you will just come to Jesus, your life will be perfect." That is just another lie from the lips of man. Jesus, God incarnate, didn't have a perfect life even though he lived a perfect life. He had no place to lay his head and he was hated by many. So to believe that things will be different for us despite Jesus telling us otherwise is deceitful and dishonesty.

However, there is hope. Not a pie in the sky hope, but a hope founded in the faithfulness of God. He has promised that one day his followers, his subjects, his servants, will be made perfect. They will be changed in the twinkling of an eye. Their corrupt and mortal bodies will be transformed into incorruptible, immortal bodies.

We are closer now than we have ever been to that day; the day when Christ returns. But until that day comes we must remain steadfast and immovable in our doctrine. We must abound in the work of the Lord, remembering that the struggles, strains, and stresses are not in vain.

Will you commit to being vigilant and diligent until that day?

If perfection is what you're after, you must place your faith in Jesus as your Savior and surrender your life to him as Lord. That is the only way perfection can be achieved. If you have not done so yet, our invitation is your opportunity to come and confess Jesus as Lord and Savior and in return receive that great hope of perfection.