



Preparing Souls To Serve The Lord

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“When That Which Is Perfect Is Come”

By
Jackie M. Stearsman

The title of this article is from First Corinthians 13:10 and has been the source of much discussion in religious circles. The passage reads as follows: “*But when that which is perfect is come, then that which is in part shall be done away.*” Some contend that miracles are to continue until the Lord returns and cite this passage as proof of their affirmation. In so doing they must admit that “that which is in part” has to do with the miraculous. They also must change the gender of the term “that” to “He.” In so doing they read the text according to their preconceived notion—having miracles continue until “He” that is perfect (Christ) returns.

Let us consider some reasons for rejecting the contention that miracles are to continue until Christ comes again. (1) Miracles in the context of First Corinthians 13:10 are stated to be for the childhood stage and/or the development stage of the revelation. Childhood is not the goal. Adult, or manhood, is the goal. Using this as a

comparison Paul affirms that the miracles were for the childhood stage and not for the adult stage. Anyone contending for the continuation of miracles today is asking for the childhood stage and not the complete and fully developed stage of God’s revelation to man. (2) The term “perfect” is used to mislead

“But when that which is perfect is come, then that which is in part shall be done away” (1 Cor 13:10, KJV).

“But when the complete comes, the partial will come to an end” (1 Cor. 13:10, NRSV).

unsuspecting, uninformed, and misinformed souls to make the switch in their mind to “He” rather than the text “that.” The New Revised Standard translation is helpful here for it renders the term “perfect” as “complete.” The exact expression is as follows: “*but when the complete comes, the partial will come to*

an end.” This rendering makes the comparison easier to grasp. Paul is contrasting the truth that was made known to them in part with the truth that would be made known to them in the completed form. (3) Other passages show that we have the completed form of God’s message to us in the Bible. James 1:25 calls it “the perfect law of liberty.” Consider the following passages and reflect upon their meaning. These passages use the same Greek term rendered “perfect” or “complete” as per First Corinthians 13:10 in the KJV and the NRSV cited above.

Romans 12:2

“And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.”

Questions: May we know what our complete duty to God is today? How may one know what God expects of him today? I affirm that the Bible will furnish us completely so that we may have no need for additional information by

so called spiritual elite who make false claims of having additional direction from the supernatural today. Read and accept Paul's words to Timothy. *"But continue thou in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of, knowing of whom thou hast learned them; And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works"* (II Tim. 3:14-17).

Ephesians 4:13

"Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ."

When Christ was present with the Apostles they could have all questions fully, completely answered by Him. In the development stage of the Bible there was not the complete information in any one person apart from an inspired Apostle. When the perfect man stage, the completed stage of development came, there would be no need to be misled or misdirected by insufficient information. This is the essence of Paul's message in Ephesians 4:13. The perfect man in this text has to do with the completed state of the revelation of God to man. When that which is perfect is come that which is in part would be done away.

Colossians 1:28

"Whom we preach, warning every man, and teaching every man in all wisdom; that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus."

Questions: Is it possible today to present a person mature, complete before Christ? If we answer yes a second question is proposed, how may we be sure that we have done so? Is it not because we have a

complete message from God that we are able to use and teach men what they ought to be? I affirm that this is the case. In the childhood stage of the development of the Bible you would have to find an inspired person or have an inspired document to enable you to accomplish spiritual maturity. Today we have that which is perfect in the Bible. We are able to teach men how they can be complete before Christ. That which is perfect has come and it is the Bible.

First John 1:1-4

"That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, of the Word of life; (For the life was manifested, and we have seen it, and bear witness, and shew unto you that eternal life, which was with the Father, and was manifested unto us;) That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, that ye also may have fellowship with us: and truly our fellowship is with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ. And these things write we unto you, that your joy may be full" (I John 1:1-4).

It has been suggested that the interpretation of First Corinthians 13:10 "that which is perfect" may refer to Christ for in this text (I John 1:1-4) "that," neuter gender, refers to Christ. This we deny for the following reasons. (1) "That" in this text under evaluation has as its point of emphasis the message and this should be clear if we would but read and reflect upon it. This message under consideration concerns the word of life. This word of life has its origin in Christ the source of all life and light to men. *"In him was life; and the life was the light of men"* (John 1:4). You can not separate Christ from life or light. To see Christ was to see the incarnate (in flesh) message of God to man. To read the message of Christ is to read the Inspired Word of Christ. (2) Note that in the First John text we have the message producing life. When we read and

comply with this life giving message we have two blessings: (a) fellowship with the Apostles, God, and the Christ, and (b) joy. (3) Note that John is declaring this message and writing it in order that we might realize the above mentioned results. We have fellowship as described above today because we have the same life giving message today. We have the same joy they had when we read and comply with the same life giving message.

Ephesians 1:3 and II Peter 1:3

"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ" (Eph. 1:3).

"According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue" (II Peter 1:3).

These texts state that we have all spiritual blessings in Christ. We should not be seeking spiritual blessings in any other source. These texts also tell us that we have been given all things that pertain unto life and godliness in the knowledge of the Bible made possible by the inspired message.

Blessings abound for the child of God and for all people who will comply with that which is perfect, that completed message inspired for us in the Bible. The

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greatest need we have today is to study that which is perfect and bring our lives into harmony with that truth and in doing so we may know the abundant life made possible in Christ Jesus (John 10:18).

There is no greater danger today than to lose confidence in that which is perfect—the Bible. People depreciate that which is perfect (the Bible) by having you think you can not understand it. They depreciate it in making you think that you need some special spiritual guidance in order to know that this is the message of God. That which is perfect has been confirmed for us and we need only to believe and apply it (Heb. 2:1-4).

Those claiming spiritual gifts today do not believe the Bible. If they believed the Bible they would not be expecting a miracle of some form today.

Will you read and believe the message in the texts we began with: *"But when that which is perfect is come, then that which is in part shall be done away."* (KJV I Cor. 13:10). *"But when the complete comes, the partial will come to an end"* (NRSV I Cor. 13:10).

School Begins Will You Be Here?

The back page of this issue will contain the final opportunity you will have to enroll in the classes for this term. Registration is scheduled for August 25, at 7:00 P.M. This will be Friday before classes start Monday, August 28, 1995. This semester will end December 22, 1995.

Special this year will be the addition of two new faculty members. Brother E. Robert McAnally has served as a full time preacher for thirty-five years. He has done extensive radio work on numerous stations including some of the most powerful stations in the

U.S. and Canada. He was educated at Athens Bible School, Florida Christian College, Oakland University and Harding Graduate School. He serves as local preacher for the South Florida Avenue Congregation where the school meets. Bob will be teaching Isaiah and Jeremiah this semester.

Bruce Daugherty will be teaching Denominational Dogmas this semester. Brother Daugherty received his B.A. from Freed-Hardeman University and is currently working toward his M.A. from Southern Christian University. Bruce has served as full-time preacher in Ohio, Cervignano, Italy, and is currently preaching for the Beville Road Congregation in Daytona Beach, Florida.

In recent months we have been asked about the new faculty members and it is hoped that these brief remarks will introduce you to them. We are sure that they will make valuable contributions to the training of people to serve the Lord.

There are school catalogues available for you that you may know brief details about the other members of the faculty and the school as well. Write or call the office and we will see that you have a copy of the catalogue. You can be of help to the



school by telling others of our work and encouraging men to become full-

time gospel preachers.

While our primary emphasis is in training preachers many attend who want to learn more about the Bible and the classes we offer. If we may be of assistance to you in understanding more completely our program and needs please call on us.

Library Progress

The project of expanding the library is nearing completion. All should be ready for the beginning of the school year. This project could not have been completed were it not for some invaluable volunteer help.

A special word of thanks to those who rendered this help. In particular they are **Ruth Thornhill** from the Eagle Lake congregation and a second year student, **Howard Johnson**. Both of these individuals gave of their time unselfishly to help complete this very time consuming job. They both spent many hours working with the secretary.

All of the students will be able to use our library facilities to much better advantage because of the work that has been done.

For those of you who are not familiar with the facilities, the library is located in two separate rooms. One is located in the building where the South Florida congregation meets. The other is located in building where the school meets. Both of these libraries had to be gone through book by book and the information entered into the computer. All of the books donated by brother Jarrell had to be cataloged as well as entered in the computer.

Anyone who uses the library now will be able to find the information readily by consulting the information in the computer. Any books added to the library in the future will be easily added to the system. Thanks to all for a job well done.

Registration Schedule

Florida School of Preaching
 Fall Semester Begins August 28, 1995

Date _____ Phone _____

Name _____ S.S.# _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Check Classes Desired

Hours	Course	Instructor	Credit
Monday ___ 8:30 to 12:00 ___ 1:00 to 4:15	Romans 21361 Logic 31370	Davis Burgett	3 3
Tuesday ___ 8:30 to 12:00 ___ 1:00 to 4:15 ___ 7:00 to 9:30 p.m.	Greek 21322 Genesis-Exodus 11309 Bible Study Resources 21388	Stearsman Stilwell Blackman	3 3 2½
Wednesday ___ 8:30 to 12:00 ___ 1:00 to 4:15	Revelation 21359 Isaiah-Jeremiah 11313	Stearsman McAnally	3 3
Thursday ___ 8:30 to 12:00 ___ 1:00 to 4:15	Computers and Churches 31387 First and Second Corinthians 11335	Stearsman Davidson	3 3
Friday ___ 8:30 to 12:00 ___ 1:00 to 4:15	Denominational Dogmas 11311 Bible Geography & Archaeology 21329	Daugherty Franklin	3 3

FLORIDA SCHOOL OF PREACHING
 1807 SOUTH FLORIDA AVENUE
 LAKELAND, FLORIDA 33803-2653

DIRECTOR: Jackie M. Stearsman
 Phone (941) 683-4043

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