

" THE CHRISTIAN STANDARD."

"Be ye therefore perfect even as your
Father which is in heaven
is perfect."

Calculus

This is a day of standards. "But I do not believe in standards." If you do not believe in them then you practice what you do not believe. For your public schools have a standard. To teach in an all Southern affiliated school you must have your degree from an A grade college. I see people spending all they have that their sons and daughters may be able to get these degrees. You do believe in a standard. If you claim not to then you are just showing that you are too lazy to work for the high prize. Parents all over this nation are nervous every school morning trying to get the children to school on time why? They want them on the honor roll. Want them to measure up to a standard.

That cost something but it is all right. It gets the children to fighting and driving themselves against the lazy spirit of flopping down in to the plain of "Don't care? What is the result? They get the habit and the habit passes over into real joy of accomplishment. They have worked toward a high standard and achieved. Now if this is done with good results in our public schools, in week day education why not held up just as high standard for the Sunday school which is designed to culture the soul of the child? And why not have a high standard for the church in general? Jesus did have such a standard and so expressed it when He said, "Be ye therefore perfect even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect."

Now whether we like it or not He said it and said it in ~~an~~ unmistakable tones. Our church comes along and asks us preachers when being received into full connection, "Are you going on to perfection? Are you greaning for it? In this He does not mean any finatical stuff like a man claiming holiness and running off before the meeting is over with some other man's wife. Neither does He mean that you get so good that the devil will just leave you and never present a temptation. The devil tempted the Christ but did not get Him to yield to the temptation. The goal which Jesus has set is not finatical and is ^{one} that we as His followers should despise.

What does Jesus mean by living a perfect life? Does He mean that I can live without sin to day and that that very fact means that I am perfect for all time? No not in the least. I may resist the devil today and come off victor. Things may be revealed to me to day to do and I may do them to the best of my ability according to the light I have. But if a Christian has the faculty of growing at all, and we are exhorted to "Grow in grace and in knowledge", then perfection or what would be perfection to day is not perfection for tomorrow for my powers to day are less than they will be tomorrow. The second grade child makes A's on all its subjects but this does not mean that it has also perfected its third grade work. It does the second up to its ability but its fifth grade done up to A standard means that harder books and more complex subjects have been solved. And it means also that the person doing it has grown away from second grade ability to fifth grade ability. It is pitiful to see people always down in the first or second grade in their spiritual lives.

This counsel of Jesus has the appearance of a command. He Who has stood on the heights to which He calls all men, has been calling for twenty centuries. And why do some of us not go? Whittier Heard it and gladly sang:

I know the voice like none beside on land or sea
Oh soul of mine rejoice,

By all He requires of me
I know what God Himself must be.

Oh Lord and Master of us all,
What'er our name or sign
We own Thy sway, we hear Thy call,
We test our lives by Thine.

This is the only way to test our lives. We can not measure our lives by some other human being and say "My life is as good as his." We must compare our lives with none except with His. The tones of the voice of Jesus awaken harmonies unheard before in the human soul. He speaks to a longing in the heart of man that no eye had ever seen so clearly as His. Of Columbus it was said, "The instinct of an unknown continent burned in him." To Christ that flaming instinct for better than he has yet attained, in every man's soul was as distinct as the burning bush to Moses. Not every man like Columbus looked for a continent but some like Abraham looked for "a city ~~whom~~ which hath foundations whose builder and maker is God." Men look if you please for the city of man's life fulfilled in God.

Primitive man unsatisfied with his length of vision came on up and made the telescope and microscope. When his voice could not carry far enough he made the telephone and telegraph. Aspiration is still on fire and all the improvements are layed behind and the inventive mind sees the prize still hanging out before him. Just as these things are so, matters not how well he is living up to todays light, man finds within his soul a hunger for righteousness, as real and persistent as the hunger for bread and as his ~~his~~ mind for facts.

That perfectness for which we crave is in Jesus. In Him is the completeness of all our incompleteness. Philips Brooks once said, "In Him is the perfectness of every occupation, the perfect trading, the perfect house keeping, the perfect handicraft, the perfect school teaching, they are all in Him."

The divine purpose for humanity is working out to a glorious consumation. When all things shall be gathered together in one and God shall be all and in all. Man partly is and wholly hopes to be. When we fasten our eyes on Christ, faculties which we have never used stir within us. The soul hears the call of the divine Mate and Master. (The building of the perfect man is the noblest work that can go on in the world.) It is the very crown of God's creation. It is Christ's standard for humanity.

We thrill under the influence of the divine intellect; we tremble under the influence of the divine will, but we soften and surrender under the influence of the divine character, gentleness, pity, and love.

Professor Fiske of Harvard University said, "The future is lighted for us with radiant colors of hope. Strife and sorrow shall disappear. Peace and love shall reign supreme. The dream of the poets, the lesson of the priest and prophet, the inspiration of the great musicians, is confirmed in the light of presnet knowledge, and as we gird ourselves up for the work of life, we may look forward to the time when in the truest sense the kingdoms of this world shall become the kingdom of God and Christ and they shall reign forever."

Genzale in rebellion against the King of Spain was flushed with many a victory. He was making a stand in which he hoped to be the victor over the king. But many things had happened without his knowledge. His soldiers began to doubt the legality of his cause and the authenticity of his title. They saw the royal banner with the emblem of the Spanish crown upon it advancing and one by one and squadron by squadron they left him and joined the king

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and the battle was won without the firing of a gun...won for the King. The Prince of this world is flushed with many victories; his forces are well equipped and entrenched. But the time is coming at a time when the devil thinks not when his followers will doubt his title and will come away from his tyranny and cry, "Blessed be the King that cometh in the name of the Lord. Thou art the King of Glory, Oh Christ, Thou art the Everlasting Son of the Father." Thou art the One Who dost call us to be perfect even as our Father in heaven is perfect."

