

Continuing on to Perfection

Hebrews 6:1

Sunday Morning, January 24, 2010

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The Three Words:

A. Telios - To be brought to an end

It needs to be our desire to be brought to God's end in our life. In fact, that needs to consume us. It must become the most important desire of our life. Whatever it takes to get us to the point, whether it be a good thing, or a suffering, it is still desired because the end is so important.

The word that is used in Hebrews 6 is this word. We are brought to a maturity not by laying the same foundations over and over. We need to start with the foundation. But the foundation does not keep the rain out. The project requires walls and a roof. The foundation is what you build upon. The Bible says at least in our lives that salvation is the foundation. You are saved by repentance (change of mind) from your dead works to faith in Christ. That is the foundation.

The foundation is great, but you don't stop there. You keep building. Jesus Christ is the foundation. A foundation means that you are saved, but God wants you to build on that foundation.

This is so important that it becomes the ministry of the local church. We read,

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:

The goal of the church is to present you perfect. The means is preaching and warning, and teaching. We warn of what is false, and we teach what is true and we ask God to give us the wisdom to know the difference so that we can teach the difference.

I want you to see that it is not just the goal of a select few. The Lord is not like the marines. We seem to feel that He wants to find a few Good men, I mean real Good Men that he can use to do the work of the millions of Christians who are too busy to be used. If He can find an Apostle Paul today, then he can turn the world upside down.

It is VERY important that we understand that God has the same purpose and plan for each of us. We are all to be brought to perfection. He wants all of His children to grow up. He wants all of them to mature. He has given the church the assignment to reach every one of His children, to teach every one, to warn every one, that when Christ appears, we may be presented perfect, the work complete, the work finished.

I remind you again, that when Jesus was on the cross, he used a form of this word when He said, "It is finished." The work that He was given, the work of redemption was complete. He did not stop until it had been accomplished. He continued.

The same thing is true of the Lord for each of us. He will not stop. We read,

Philippines 1:6 Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ:

He will finish the work. We need to trust in His ability to do so. I can't do this. He can.

BUT YE ARE COME

1. We are not come to:

*Hebrews 12:18 For ye are not come unto the mount that might be touched, and that burned with fire, nor unto blackness, and darkness, and tempest,
19 And the sound of a trumpet, and the voice of words; which voice they that heard intreated that the word should not be spoken to them any more:*

The mount that might be touched, that burned with fire. We are not come to blackness, darkness, tempest, the sound of the trumpet. That was a very fearsome sight. It was a mountain that was unapproachable. It was a mountain that burnt but was not consumed, but any that would touch it would die. They would be consumed, because it was a holy mountain, and sin could not approach it. The words that were spoken were the words of power. They created and they destroyed. Peter wrote, "by the word of the Lord the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of the water and in the water, the world that was thereby, being overflowed with water perished. It was the same word that created was the word that destroyed. But the author of Hebrews says, that this is not our approach to God. This is not how we find Him.

2. We are come to:

*Hebrews 12:22 But ye are come unto mount Sion, and unto the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to an innumerable company of angels,
23 To the general assembly and church of the firstborn, which are written in heaven, and to God the Judge of all, and to the spirits of just men made perfect,*

Mount Sion, unto the city of the living God, to heavenly Jerusalem, to an innumerable company of angels, to the church of the firstborn, to God the judge of all, and to the spirits of just men made perfect. When we approach to God, we don't come by that mountain, we come by a different route. It leads to the back side of the mountain, a mountain that is approachable. A mountain that brings us not to a dark cloud, but to the community of heaven.

B. Artios

The second word that is used for perfect is the word artios. It is an interesting word. It is only used once in the New Testament. It means to be fit. The word is used in 2 Timothy 3:16.

*2 Timothy 3:16 All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:
17 That the man of God may be perfect <739>, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.*

The idea of perfect in this verse includes knowing doctrine, receiving reproof, being corrected and instructed in righteousness. The word artios comes from a root word that means at this time, at this very moment. The thought is to be fit for an assignment. That you are at the present moment, ready. To be brought to a point where you are trained and strengthened to be prepared to do a certain task. The word means that you are ready, now! You have all you

need. It is similar to boot camp. Boot camp has a purpose, and end. It has the basic plan to make you into a fit soldier, one who is able to fight for his country. Now, there are various degrees of fitness. But in this case, the idea is fit for the task, for the purpose for which you were created. We said that the Holy Spirit is indispensable to maturity. The word of God is indispensable to fitness. It gives you the strength and the ability to do what it commands.

We make a mistake if we see the Word of God as just a tool for instruction, to show us what to do. It is also a tool of enablement. The word of God is given by inspiration of God. The breath of God is placed within the pages, and it is the breath of God that brought the heavens and earth into being.

*Genesis 1:9 **And God said, Let the waters under the heaven be gathered together unto one place, and let the dry land appear: and it was so.***

This book is a command, but it is a command given by God, and though it will take longer than the six days of creation, the end will always be “and it was so.” The command is also the power to accomplish the command. That is why Joshua was told,

Joshua 1:8 This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein:

It is the key that unlocks life, and it is the key that gives the peace and the joy of Christ.

C. The third word is katartios. It means to be outfitted.

God’s desire is for us to BE PERFECT.

Heb 13:21 Make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is wellpleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ; to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

The idea of perfect in this verse is someone who pleases Him well, also someone who brings glory to Him for ever and ever. You can’t get any more fit than that. That is God’s will. His desire is to bring you to that point.

There is a difference between fit and outfitted. Fit is a personal preparation. Outfitted means that you have the equipment necessary to accomplish the task. Picture the disciples sitting on a rock by the sea of Galilee.

Mt 4:21 And going on from thence, he saw other two brethren, James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother, in a ship with Zebedee their father, mending <2675> their nets; and he called them.

During that night, like many nights, the net has developed a tear. Some of the netting is loose and some is missing. The fishermen must have a net that has integrity. In other words, without holes. Any hole will allow the big fish to escape. So they spend much time after every day on the lake, fixing their nets, getting them ready for the next time.

We have to be prepared for the task that God has given to us. Not only do we have to be fit, all of the holes need to be mended, and it is God’s task to mend the holes, to give us integrity. My main problem is not immaturity. My main problem is not fitness. My main problem is a life without holes. God constantly is patching me up. I still develop lots of tears and it is

those areas where I lose integrity. We read

Galatians 6:1 Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore <2675> such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted.

In like manner, people get holes in their life, and they lose their integrity. It is our job as believers to help them to come back to the Lord. We need each saint in our church growing. But there are times when we will be hurting and we will fail. At those times, we need to be restored, so that we can go out again and catch fish.

God has a way of showing us the areas where we lack integrity. Just about the time we feel we have arrived, God puts us through a test that shows that we have a long ways to go. 1 Peter 5:10 gives us another round of suffering and pain so that we will be made perfect.

1 Peter 5:10 But the God of all grace, who hath called us unto his eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after that ye have suffered a while, make you perfect, stablish, strengthen, settle you.

The word used here is katartizo. It means to be fit and outfitted. It mean that we are ready and able to be and do what He wants us to be and do. But, this process takes some suffering.

Our Goal as a church:

Col 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:

Heb 6:1 Therefore leaving the principles of the doctrine of Christ, let us go on unto perfection; not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works, and of faith toward God,

