

## 1865 - Heb 10:14,22,23      PERFECT for ALL TIME

Xnity is a wonderful religion. It makes sinners **perfect for all time!** End of story! Those who **believe** in our Lord Jesus Christ with a **living** faith in His **atonement** sacrifice for their sins, are **perfected for all time!!** Although this faith is **never alone**, (because it **always** has accompanying **graces**), it is simply by **faith alone** they are saved! There's **no other requirement**. Faith alone saves the soul for all time

Our chapter starts with the **subject** of making people **perfect!** *the law ...can never...make perfect...those who draw near* to offer sacrifices [1]. Many people, even Jews, felt law-keeping did make people perfect! But God *neither desired nor* (has) *taken pleasure in sacrifices* [8] **But we (Xns) have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all** [10] The Writer **contrasts** the false understanding that obedience to the Law saved the soul, as against **faith** in the **atonement sacrifice** of Jesus Christ. You see there **IS** something in fallen man which believes that by '**doing good**' we gain redemption and acceptance with God. But no! **Faith!!**

The Writer goes on to confirm this by **quoting** from God in OT *I will remember their sins and their lawless deeds no more* [17+Jer 31:34] The Writer concludes **Therefore**, because there is **total/complete/perfect** salvation we have **confidence** *to enter the holy places by the blood of Jesus by the new and living way that HE opened for US* [19] Further, the Writer says *let US draw near with a true heart in full ASSURANCE of faith, with our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience* [22] Therefore he finally concludes by saying **hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful** [23]! The whole passage is about having **full assurance** and **confidence** in what **God** has said about salvation by faith alone!

The Writer is **establishing** the truth that salvation is complete and perfect in Christ! Nothing is to be added to what Jesus Christ has done, or added to our simple **faith** in His work on the Cross! Listen: *Now it is evident that NO ONE is justified before God by the law, for 'The righteous shall live by faith'...Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us* [Gal 3:11cf] *God put*

(Christ) *forward as a propitiation...to be received BY FAITH...so that He might be just and the justifier of the one who has FAITH in JESUS* [Rom 3:24cf] So clear **'faith in Jesus'** is the bottom line! APP Do you believe in Jesus? That He died on the Cross as a **propitiation** for your sins? Do you deny that? That is the **gospel!**

Writer's particular point is: we **must** have **confidence** in **that truth** and **not** waver about it and add 'ifs' & 'buts' and start to look at our failings, past or present as a ground for our salvation. There **IS** a sense in which we, as believers **ARE** indeed **PERFECT - ready for heaven** - and that can **never ever** change! This is the gospel - if we do **not** believe this, then we do not believe the gospel. We **must** have **confidence** in Christ's sacrifice, and **not** in our holy way of living!

\*Now, some people **see a problem** or a **tension** in our text [v14]! On one hand it speaks of those whom God has *perfected for ALL time*; end of story, salvation completed. On the other hand it speaks of those **same** people *being sanctified* as if they have **not** been made completely **holy** yet, but are only in the **process** of being made holy!

But there's **no tension**/problem! The **end result** of our salvation (heaven), **has been** achieved by Christ - but He has to **work IN us** by His **Holy Spirit** to make us more and more like Himself while we are on earth. As Paul said to the Philippians God **BEGAN** the *good work* of **sanctification** in them but He **WILL BRING it to completion!** [Phi 1:6] Again Paul prayed for Thess, *may the God of peace sanctify you completely* and then he gives them the **assurance** *He who calls you is faithful; He will surely do it* [1Thes 5:23] Don't doubt Him!

The Scriptures clearly state that Christ has **completed** everything for us and **trust in Him SEALS the 'whole deal'**. The process of 'being sanctified' does **not reflect** on any **inadequacy** or on the **finality** of what Christ has done for us, **nor** does it **reflect** on the **inadequacy** of faith in Him. There is **no inadequacy**. Being sanctified here on earth is something that is the **result** of our **faith** in Christ. If there is no sanctification, there is no faith! God's Holy Spirit works in those who have faith! When we believe in Christ, we receive God's Spirit. And that Spirit 'works' in our hearts/souls **conforming** us to Christ!

Although X **has** received us, we are **still in the body/flesh** and **still have** a sinful nature! This sinful nature is **gradually** being made holy - **because** we become **more and more aware** and **conscious** of our sinfulness and our **DESIRE to quit sin** and become more conformed to the image of Christ. A Xn who is **not aware** of his sin is in a very dangerous place. Listen to the Apostle John *if we say that we have **no sin**, we **deceive ourselves** and the truth is **not in us*** [1John 1:8]. Xns are not perfect in their daily walk as James says *we **all stumble in many ways*** [Jam 3:2]! But there is **this difference** between the Xn and the non-Xn, the Xn **DESIREs**, hungers after, and longs for freedom from his sin - which no unbeliever does! He loves his sin!

Again, we say the Writer's point is: we must **look** to Christ and **realise** our **security** is in Him, but we must **press on** serving Him as best we can, albeit imperfectly! The fact of completed salvation in Christ should **spur us on!** *Therefore brothers, since we **have confidence** let us draw near... in **full assurance of faith*** [19-22]

If **Athletes** at the **Olympics** with their **self-belief** and belief in their trainer and methods can win gold medals, surely Xns can win a Crown of Righteousness by believing, **not** in themselves but in the **'work' of Christ on the Cross** and in the power of God. Paul: *Every athlete exercises self-control in all things. They do it to receive a **perishable** crown, but we an **imperishable*** [1Cor 9:25].

Do you know that **Ussian Bolt** slipped on the **blocks** at the start! But he pressed on and won a world record! He made up for the slip! For Xns it is even **better**, for we **have assurance** of pardon for our sins. Non Xns do **not have assurance** of their sins being forgiven - only Xns have that assurance! When we sin we **immediately repent** before God! We seek pardon from Him. It was to Xns John that wrote these words *if **WE confess** our sins, He is **faithful and just** to **forgive us our sins** and to cleanse us from **all unrighteousness!*** [1J1]

Christopher Ask tells of a well-known painter who used to keep a number of highly coloured stones on a shelf in his studio: an emerald, a ruby, and so on. When asked why, he said 'All day long I am working at my canvas with mixed impure colours, and my eye is

apt to lose its keenness. So every now and then I stop working and feast my eyes on upon these stones. And my sense of colour is restored! We must be like that painter. We live a a **morally muddy world**, even the best of us have many imperfections - we need every now and then to **feast our eyes on Jesus** and on **His Word!**

Here are **3 aids/helps** which **will help** us to hold to our faith in Christ  
(1) We must **confess** our sins because it is the **only way** to have *our heart sprinkled clean from an evil conscience* [22]. It is wonderful to have a clear conscience! It is in connection with answered prayer that James says **Therefore confess your sins to one another** [Jam 5:16] Remember the Sermon on the Mount? **First be reconciled to your brother, and then come**[Mt5:24] **before** you come into God's presence to worship Him

(2) **Profess** His Name! Make a public stand for Jesus. Be unashamed of believing Him, going to Church, keeping His commandments. Have you wondered about the end of verse [22]? *our bodies washed with pure water* ?? It **does** refer to **baptism!** Baptism is the **profession** of your faith in Christ (either of the individual being baptised, or of the **parents' faith**)! The Lord's Supper is the **continuance** of that profession of faith! That is why **everyone** who is baptised **should/ought** to be at the Lord's Supper. If they are not there, they are either under discipline by the church, or have **disciplined themselves!** And so the Writer is saying that 'having confessed that he is a sinner and having professed the name of Christ, he **can** lift his head high (**in gracious humility of course**) and *draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith* [22]

(3) We must **worship together** with God's people *not neglecting to meet together...but encouraging one another* [25] Meeting together does **strengthen** us in our faith - even although we may not have said very much about Christ! The fact that we have clean **language**, and clean **subjects**, and a **love/care** for each other is helpful and encouraging! But it would be **much more** helpful and encouraging if we **did speak** about the Lord's **goodness** each day! **publish** *with the voice of thanksgiving and tell of all His wondrous works* [Ps26:7AV]