

The TRUE Identity



THE ONE WEEK.

of a

Seventh Day Adventist



The TRUE Identity



Section 4c
SINLESSNESS
IN
SINFUL FLESH
(PART 3)

Seventh Day Adventist

PART 3: THE PERFECTION PRINCIPLE



INTRODUCTORY TOPICAL TEXT(S)

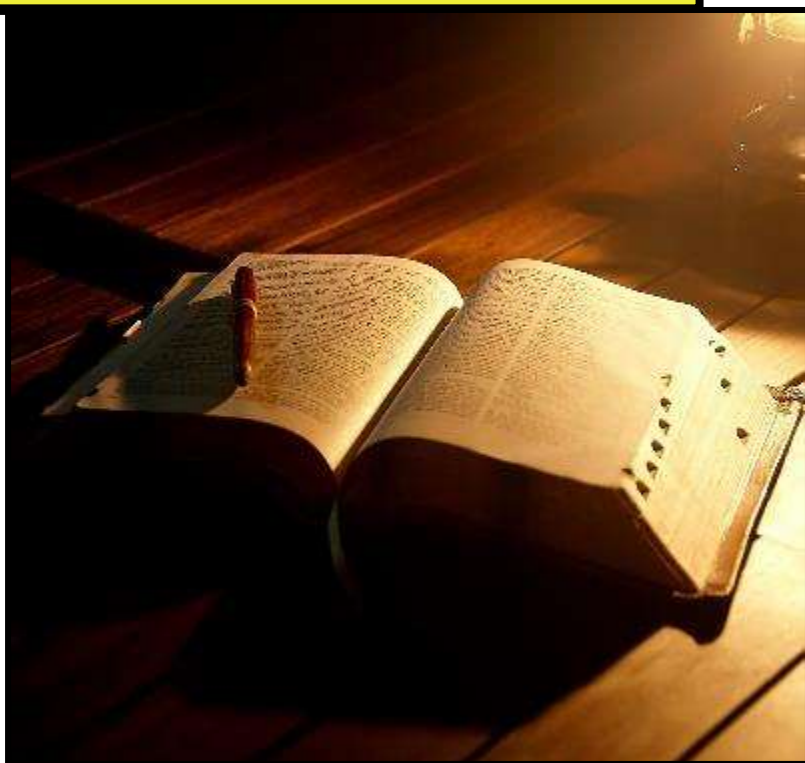
MATTHEW 5:48 (KJV)>> ⁴⁸Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect.

MATTHEW 5:8 (KJV)>> ⁸Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God.

PSALMS 37:37 (KJV)>> ³⁷Mark the perfect man, and behold the upright: for the end of that man is peace.

PSALMS 32:1-2 (KJV)>> ¹Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered. ²Blessed is the man unto whom the LORD imputeth not iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no guile.

2 PETER 3:14 (KJV)>> ¹⁴Wherefore, beloved, seeing that ye look for such things, be diligent that ye may be found of him in peace, without spot, and blameless.



Built on the Foundations: Principal Points of Faith

The S. D. A. people have no written creed, but the following are the main points of their faith, upon which there is a very general agreement. They believe:

V. - That the new birth comprises the entire change necessary to fit us for the kingdom of God. . . . {1890, MBC90 8.5}

XVI. - That no one can be a true child of God except by conversion, which is the work of the Holy Spirit. . . .{1890, MBC90 10.3}

XVII. - That all mankind have broken God's law, and come short of his glory; and that we are wholly dependent upon Jesus Christ for justification from all past sins, and for strength to obey God's law in time to come. {1890, MBC90 10.4}

XVIII. - That Christians are constantly beset by three enemies; the world, the flesh, and the Devil; and that to be preserved from backsliding and being lost, we should take up our daily cross, watch unto prayer, have faith in God, read and study the Bible, attend meetings, bear a public testimony to the goodness of God, and work while the day lasts, in doing good to others. {1890, MBC90 10.5}

Folio Views - [Words of the Adventist Pioneers (Shadow)]

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MISCELLANEOUS TITLES
Battle Creek Church Membership Lists
Membership of the Seventh-day Adventist Church of Battle Creek, Mich. [1890]
PRINCIPAL POINTS OF FAITH OF SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS

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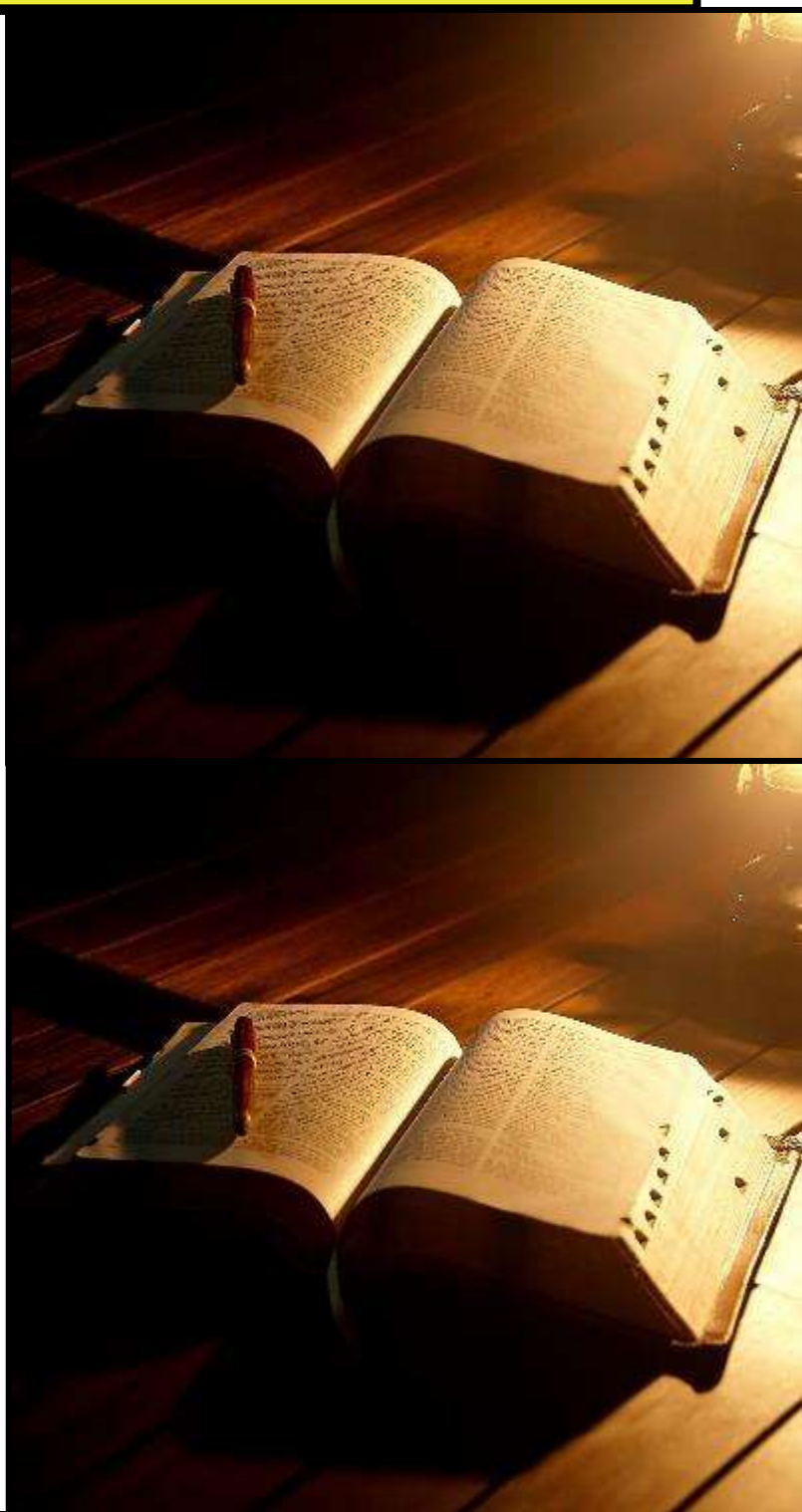
I.-That there is one God, a personal, spiritual Being, the Creator of all things, omnipotent, omniscient, and eternal; infinite in wisdom, holiness, justice, goodness, truth, and mercy; unchangeable, and that he is everywhere present by his representative, the Holy Spirit. {1890, MBC90 8.1}

II.-That there is one Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of the Eternal Father, the one by whom he created all things, and by whom they consist; that he took on him the nature of man, for the redemption of our fallen race; that he dwelt among men, full of grace and truth, lived our example, died our sacrifice, was raised for our justification, ascended on high to be our only mediator in the sanctuary in heaven, where, through the atoning merits of his blood, he secures the pardon and forgiveness of all who penitently come to God through him; and as the closing portion of his work as priest before he comes again as King of kings, he will make the final atonement for the sins of all believers, and blot

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Where can we start in understanding the process of perfection unto God?

PSALMS 19:7-14 (KJV)>> ⁷The law of the LORD is perfect, converting the soul: the testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple. ⁸The statutes of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart: the commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes. ⁹The fear of the LORD is clean, enduring for ever: the judgments of the LORD are true and righteous altogether. ¹⁰More to be desired are they than gold, yea, than much fine gold: sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb. ¹¹Moreover by them is thy servant warned: and in keeping of them there is great reward. ¹²**Who can understand his errors? cleanse thou me from secret faults.** ¹³**Keep back thy servant also from presumptuous sins; let them not have dominion over me: then shall I be upright, and I shall be innocent from the great transgression.** ¹⁴Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in thy sight, O LORD, my strength, and my redeemer.



Is there a lesser way than perfection to be right with God?

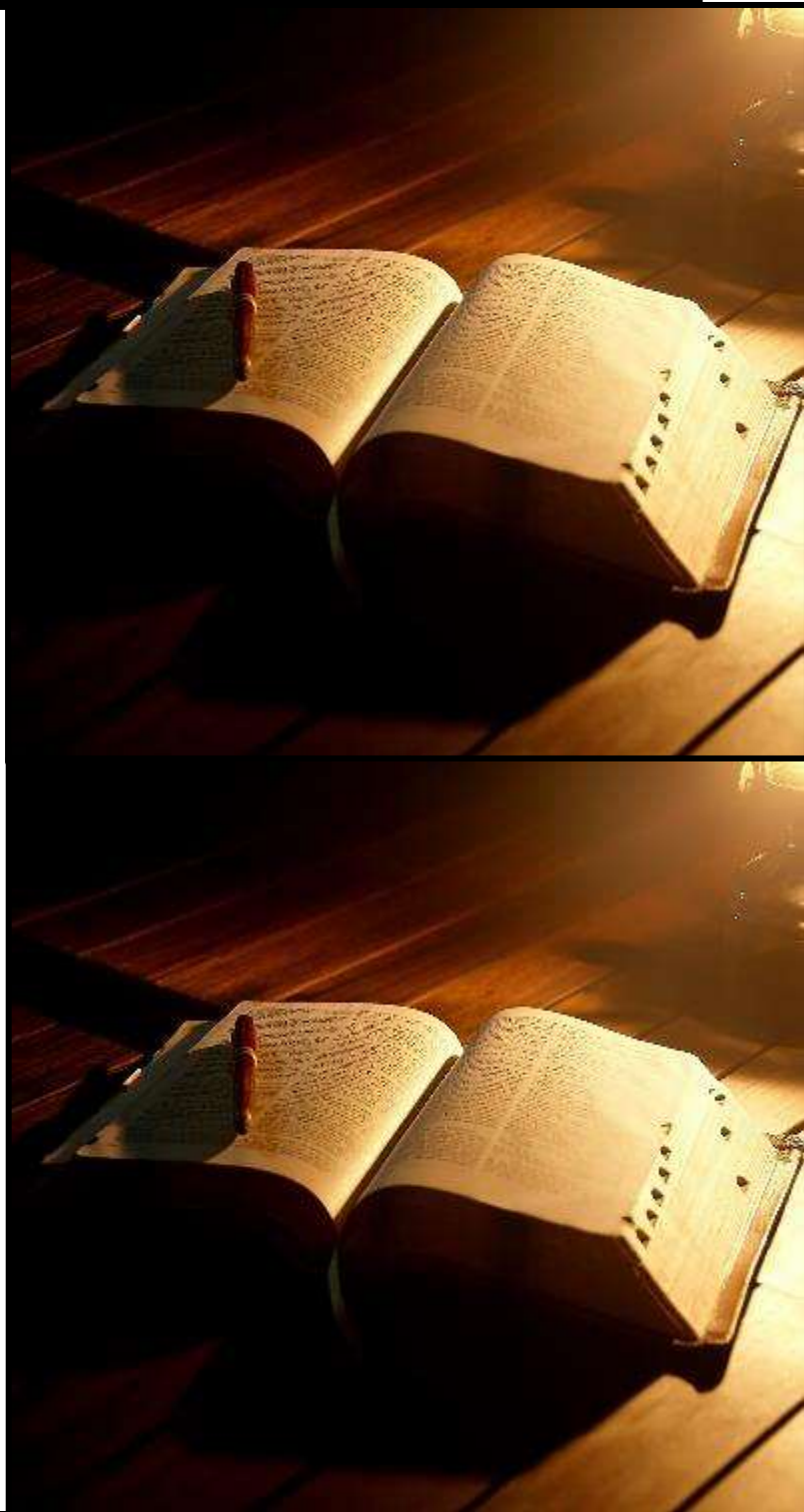
DEUTERONOMY 18:13 (KJV)>> ¹³Thou shalt be perfect with the LORD thy God.

HEBREWS 12:14 (KJV)>> ¹⁴Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord.

REVELATION 21:27 (KJV)>> ²⁷And there shall in no wise enter into it any thing that defileth, neither whatsoever worketh abomination, or maketh a lie: but they which are written in the Lamb's book of life.

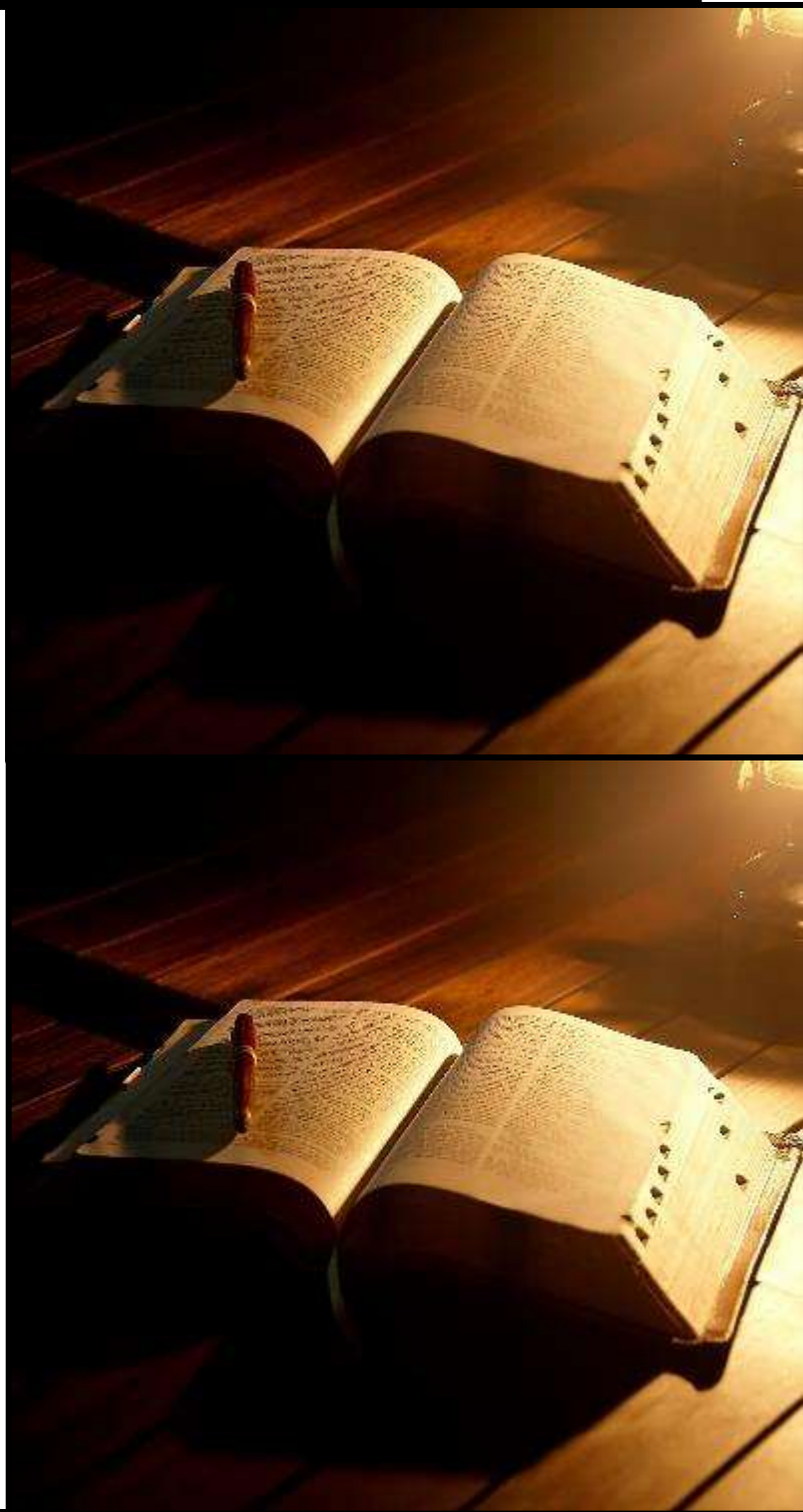
REVELATION 22:14 (KJV)>> ¹⁴Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city.

JAMES 2:10 (KJV)>> ¹⁰For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all.



Is there a lesser way than perfection to be right with God?

GENESIS 4:3-8 (LEESER)>> ³And it came to pass in process of time, that Cain brought of the fruit of the ground and offering unto the Lord. ⁴And Abel--he also brought of the firstlings of his flock, and of the fattest thereof; and **the Lord had respect unto Abel and to his offering;** ⁵**But unto Cain and to his offering he had no respect;** and it was very displeasing to Cain, and his countenance fell. ⁶And the Lord said unto Cain, Why art thou wroth? and why is thy countenance fallen? ⁷**if thou doest well, shalt thou not be accepted? and if thou doest not well, sin lieth at the door; and unto thee is its desire, but thou canst rule over it.** ⁸And Cain talked with Abel his brother: and it came to pass when they were in the field, that Cain rose up against Abel his brother, and slew him.

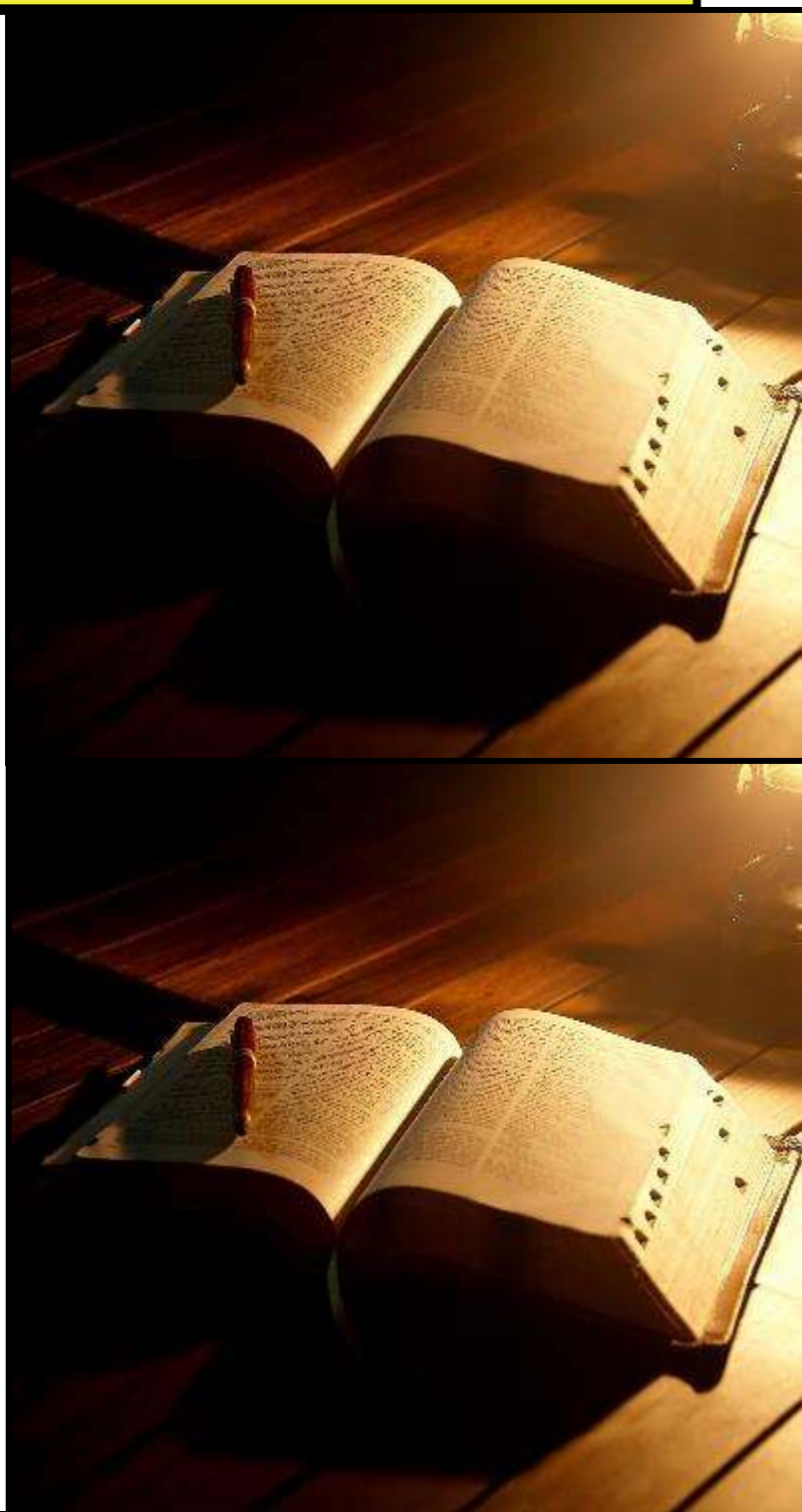


Your perfect acceptance with God is based upon your dealing with your sins.

ISAIAH 59:1-3 (KJV)>> ¹Behold, the LORD'S hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; neither his ear heavy, that it cannot hear: ²But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear. ³For your hands are defiled with blood, and your fingers with iniquity; your lips have spoken lies, your tongue hath muttered perverseness.

HEBREWS 7:25-26 (KJV)>> ²⁵Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them. ²⁶For such an high priest became us, who is holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and made higher than the heavens.

PSALMS 24:3-5 (KJV)>> ³Who shall ascend into the hill of the LORD? or who shall stand in his holy place? ⁴He that hath clean hands, and a pure heart; who hath not lifted up his soul unto vanity, nor sworn deceitfully. ⁵He shall receive the blessing from the LORD, and righteousness from the God of his salvation.



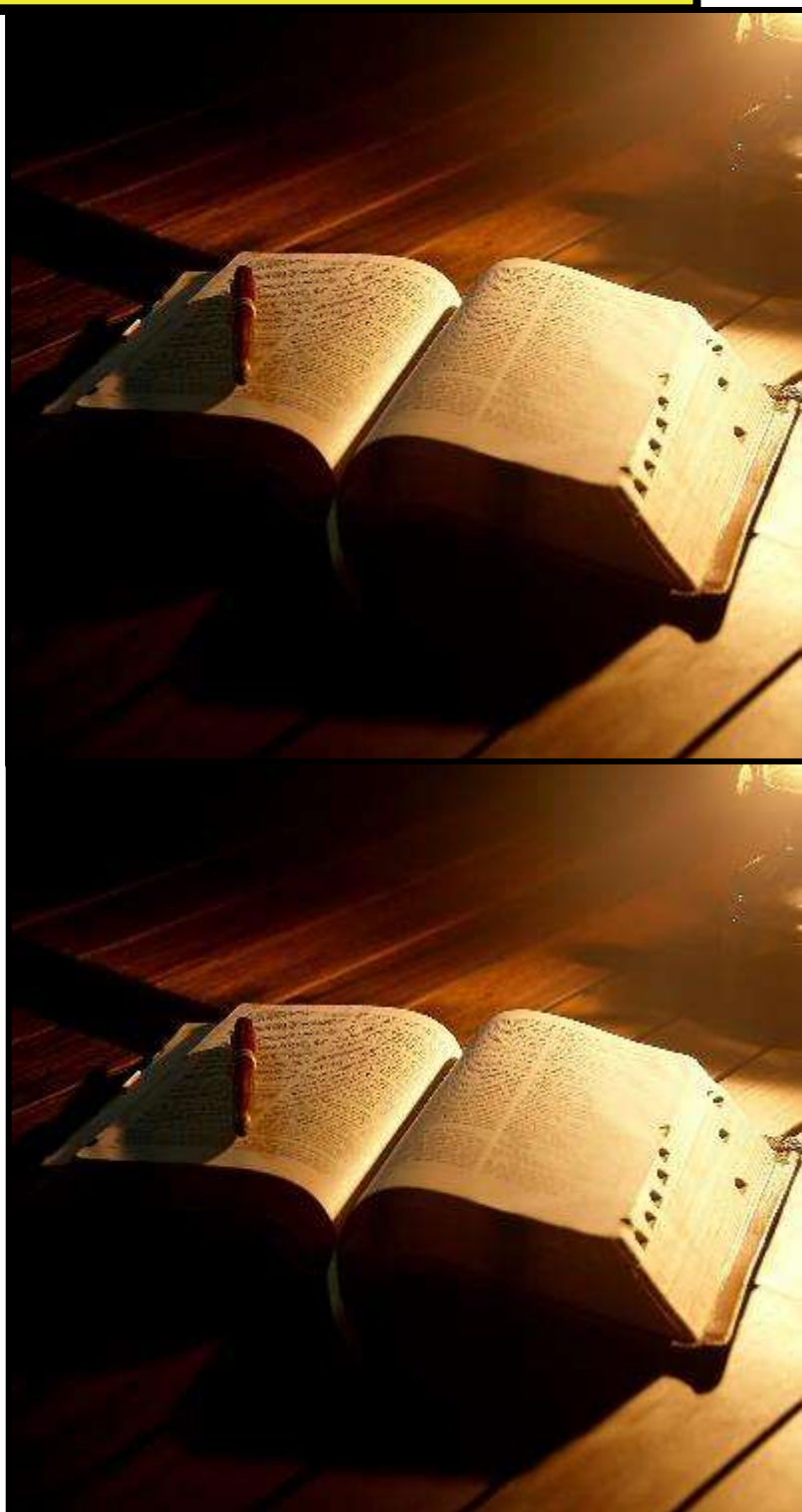
Can I be perfect before God now, while I have so much to learn?
Does Christ's sacrifice cover my sins of ignorance?

10

NUMBERS 15:27-31 (KJV)>> ²⁷And if any soul **sin through ignorance**, then he shall bring a she goat of the first year for a sin offering. ²⁸And **the priest shall make an atonement for the soul that sinneth ignorantly**, when he sinneth by ignorance before the LORD, to make an atonement for him; and it shall be forgiven him. ²⁹**Ye shall have one law for him that sinneth through ignorance, both for him that is born among the children of Israel, and for the stranger that sojourneth among them.** ³⁰**But the soul that doeth ought presumptuously, whether he be born in the land, or a stranger, the same reproacheth the LORD; and that soul shall be cut off from among his people.** ³¹**Because he hath despised the word of the LORD, and hath broken his commandment, that soul shall utterly be cut off; his iniquity shall be upon him.**

HEBREWS 10:26 (KJV)>> ²⁶For if we **sin wilfully** after that we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remaineth no more sacrifice for sins.

JAMES 4:17 (KJV)>> ¹⁷Therefore to him that **knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin.**



Practical applications of the perfection principle God employs.

I was then pointed to a company. It seemed to be a family, with others present. I saw them bowed. Two of these men were present. I was particularly pointed by the angel who accompanies me while in vision, to Brother Thompson. I saw him walking the room and then raising his arms and putting them down like a person making mesmeric passes, and the one he was near commenced to sink away beneath the power which he felt and which was called the power of God. I was pointed to others and saw them wilting beneath the same power. **I saw that the family there had but just tasted of the third angel's message. A good work had just been wrought for them in bringing them to God and His truth, and although they felt the power of spiritual magnetism that night and its effects since, God would not lay the sin to their charge for they were innocent, being inexperienced.** I saw that they had much to learn and if they were humble, God would lead them along and teach them His will and the present truth and what they must be in order to be saved and reign with Christ in glory. {Ms 3, 1854, par. 11}

The screenshot shows the top portion of the EGW Writings website. At the top left is the logo for 'EGW WRITINGS' with the website addresses 'WHITESTATE.ORG | ELLENWHITE.ORG'. To the right is a search bar with a magnifying glass icon and the word 'Search'. Below the logo is the main heading 'EGW WRITINGS' and a breadcrumb trail: 'MAIN > ALL COLLECTIONS > ENGLISH > EGW WRITINGS'. The main content area features two large blue icons: a stack of books on the left and a pair of hands in prayer on the right. Between these icons, the text '120 books' is displayed in orange. Below the stack of books icon, the word 'BOOKS' is written in blue. At the bottom of the screenshot, another set of icons is visible, including an open book and a scroll, with the text '203 books' in orange between them.

Practical applications of the perfection principle God employs.

Those who break the seventh commandment should be suspended from the church and not have its fellowship or the privileges of the house of God. {Ms 3, 1854, par. 5}

Said the angel, **“This is not a sin of ignorance. It is a knowing sin and will receive the awful visitation of God, whether he who commits it be old or young.”** {Ms 3, 1854, par. 6}

Men often commit wrong through ignorance or want of judgment. In many instances there is no premeditated wrong; it is caused through a lack of thoughtfulness. The one who treats this as sin is himself a sinner. There is with many a keen imagination that makes them offender for a word or action. But often the one judged is innocent in the sight of God. {Lt 80, 1898, par. 12}

God does not deal thus with His creatures. His wrath is never visited upon sins of ignorance. {ST, November 1, 1899 par. 7}

To worship God on a common working day upon which He has placed no sanctity, in our ignorance is not sin, but when light comes to us showing us what is truth, we are to give up error and accept the truth. If God plainly states that He requires one thing, and we present to Him another, claiming for ourselves that it makes no difference, we deceive our own souls to our own ruin, for God will not be trifled with. {Lt 97, 1893, par. 2}

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Practical applications of the perfection principle God employs.

In his sufferings and death Jesus has made atonement for all sins of ignorance, but there is no provision made for wilful blindness. Those who have hid their eyes from the truth lest they should be convinced, must exercise repentance toward God for the transgression of his law, and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ, that their sins of ignorance in the transgression of the Sabbath may be forgiven. {RH, April 25, 1893 par. 10}

Let none plead as an excuse for not keeping the Sabbath, that their fathers died accepted of God when keeping the first day of the week. No doubt they were accepted; for they did not sin against the light that is shining upon you in your day. God would have us walk in the light which shines upon us. We are to appreciate the truth that is presented to our understanding; for if we do not walk in the light, it becomes darkness, and our darkness will be proportionate to the light that is given. {RH, April 25, 1893 par. 11}

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Practical applications of the perfection principle God employs.

The germination of the seed represents the beginning of spiritual life, and **the development of the plant is a beautiful figure of Christian growth.** As in nature, so in grace; there can be no life without growth. The plant must either grow or die. As its growth is silent and imperceptible, but continuous, so is the development of the Christian life. **At every stage of development our life may be perfect; yet if God's purpose for us is fulfilled, there will be continual advancement.** Sanctification is the work of a lifetime. As our opportunities multiply, our experience will enlarge, and our knowledge increase. We shall become strong to bear responsibility, and our maturity will be in proportion to our privileges. {COL 65.2}

The plant grows by receiving that which God has provided to sustain its life. It sends down its roots into the earth. It drinks in the sunshine, the dew, and the rain. It receives the life-giving properties from the air. **So the Christian is to grow by co-operating with the divine agencies.** Feeling our helplessness, we are to improve all the opportunities granted us to gain a fuller experience. As the plant takes root in the soil, so we are to take deep root in Christ. . . . **By constantly relying upon Christ as our personal Saviour, we shall grow up into Him in all things who is our head.** {COL 66.1}

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The perfection principle is the reason we can read of such ones in both the Old & New Testaments.

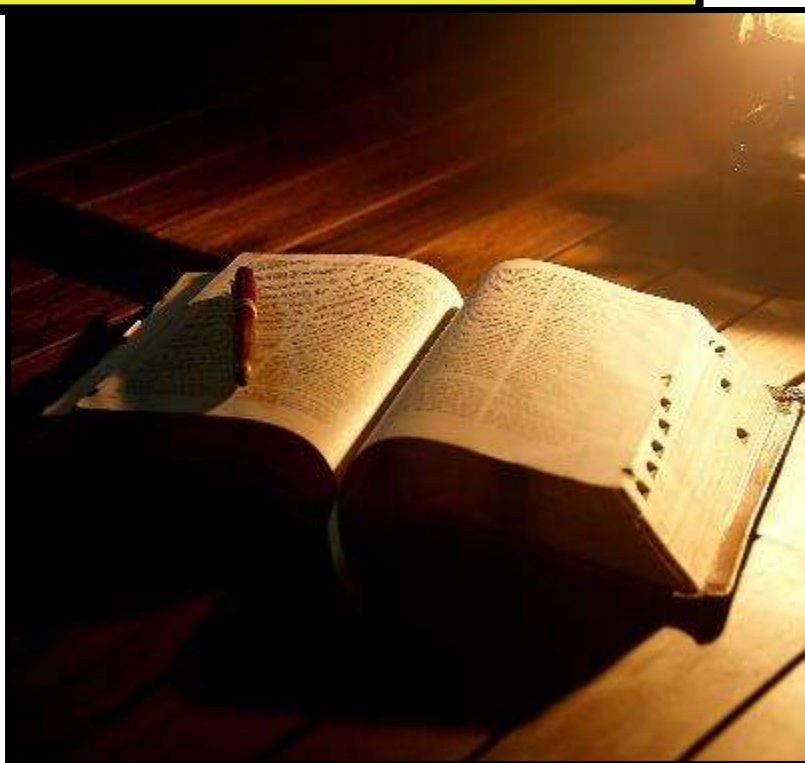
GENESIS 6:9 (KJV)>> ⁹These are the generations of Noah: Noah was a just man and perfect in his generations, and Noah **walked with God**.

GENESIS 17:1 (KJV)>> ¹And when Abram was ninety years old and nine, the LORD appeared to Abram, and said unto him, I am the Almighty God; **walk before me, and be thou perfect**.

JOB 1:8 (KJV)>> ⁸And the LORD said unto Satan, Hast thou considered my servant Job, that there is none like him in the earth, a perfect and an upright man, one that feareth God, and escheweth evil?

LUKE 1:5-6 (KJV)>> ⁵There was in the days of Herod, the king of Judaea, a certain priest named Zacharias, of the course of Abia: and his wife was of the daughters of Aaron, and her name was Elisabeth. ⁶And they were both **righteous before God, walking in all the commandments and ordinances of the Lord blameless**.

1 CORINTHIANS 1:6-8 (KJV)>> ⁶Even as the testimony of Christ was confirmed in you: ⁷So that ye come behind in no gift; waiting for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ: ⁸**Who shall also confirm you unto the end, that ye may be blameless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.**



Conclusion: Perfection in Christ has always been the condition for salvation. It is our sins—our transgressions of the God's Law—that prevent our perfect acceptance with God. God's acceptance of us is judged by our full obedience to the light that we have; Christ's blood covers all else. At every stage of growth we can be perfect through Christ unto God, even unto the perfect day!

HEBREWS 12:1-3 (KJV)>> ¹Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, ²Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God. ³For consider him that endured such contradiction of sinners against himself, lest ye be wearied and faint in your minds.

AMEN. 🙏

