

13—Perfectly Complete

4/6/25

INTRO:

- I. → **Genesis 17:1-2**
*When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to Abram and said unto him, "I am El Shaddai; walk before me and be **perfect**. And I will make my covenant between me and you, and will multiply you greatly."*
- II. Heb (*tamiym*) blameless, whole, complete, unblemished
Grk (*téleios*) complete, mature, perfected
- III. **Genesis 6:9**
*Noah was a righteous man, he was **perfect** among his generation, and Noah walked with God.*
- IV. **Job 1:8**
*Then the LORD said to Satan, "Have you considered my servant Job? For there is no one like him on the earth; a man who is **perfect** and upright, one who fears God and shuns evil."*
- V. MOLLY LOOKING FOR THE TWO LAST PEICES

BODY:

I. Completed in Grace

Heb (*chen*) grace, favor

A. Gods' grace cannot be earned through ritual or sacrament.

1) **Ephesians 2:8-10**

*For it is by **grace** you have been **saved**, through faith—and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God—not of works, lest anyone should boast. For we are his **workmanship**, created in Christ Jesus unto **good works**, which God prepared in advance that we should walk in them.*

2) SALVATION DURING LUTHER'S TIME (10/31/1517)

- a) Baptism—cleansed from original sin
- b) Confession—eternal guilt absolved for new sins
- c) Eucharist—receiving of God's grace and salvation

- d) Penance—for temporal guilt, either worked off in this life or in Purgatory. Even good Christians could never be fully sure if their debt was fully paid.
- e) Indulgences—remittance for temporal punishment

B. Our salvation was completed by Jesus on the cross.

1) **2 Corinthians 12:9-10**

*And he said to me, "My **grace** is sufficient for you, for power is made **complete** in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, that Christ's power may rest upon me.*

2) **OVERCOMING PERFECTIONISM AT 12**

II. **Completed in Works**

Heb (*ma'aseh*) action, a work, a deed

A. Salvation by grace does not mean there is not work to do.

1) **Philippians 2:12-13**

*Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed—not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence—continue to **work out** your own salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who **works** in you, both to **will and to work** according to his good pleasure.*

- 2) "Therefore, just as God helped us gratuitously through Christ, so we should do nothing else than help our neighbor through our body and its **works** . . . For a man does not live in his body alone, but also among other men on earth. Therefore he cannot be without **works** in relation to them; he must speak with them at some point and have dealings with them, even though no such **work** is necessary for his piety and salvation . . . This, then, is a true Christian life, where faith undertakes **work** with passion and love."—Martin Luther, *On the Freedom of a Christian*

B. Works do not save us, but in them our purpose is complete.

1) **James 2:17-18**

*In the same way, faith by itself, if it does not have **works**, is dead. Yet someone will say, "You have faith, and I have **works**." Show me your faith without **works**, and I will show you my faith by my **works**.*

2) LISTENING TO KEITH GREEN

III. Completed in Love

Heb (*cheched*) lovingkindness

A. We are complete in Him when we are no longer afraid.

1) **1 John 4:18-19**

*There is no fear in love. But **complete** love casts out fear, because fear has punishment. The one who fears is not **completed** in love.*

2) FINALLY FINDING LOVE IN MOLLY

3) JERRY MAGUIRE—YOU COMPLETE ME

B. Our lives are never complete until we love one another.

1) **1 John 4:11-12**

*Beloved, since God so **loved** us, we also ought to **love** one another. No one has ever seen God; but if we **love** one another, God lives in us and his **love is completed** in us.*

OTHER SCRIPTURES:

Psalms 15:1-2

1 Lord, who may dwell in your sacred tent?

Who may live on your holy mountain?

2 The one whose walk is **blameless**,
who **does** what is righteous,
who **speaks** the truth from their heart;

Psalm 63:4-5

Because your **love** is better than life,
my lips will shout your praise.

Therefore I will bless you while I live,

In your name I will lift up my hands.

Psalms 90:17

May the favor of the Lord our God rest on us;

establish the **work** of our hands for us—

yes, establish the **work** of our hands.

Jude 24-25

To him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you
before his glorious presence **without fault** and with great joy— 25 to
the only God our Savior be glory, majesty, power and authority, through
Jesus Christ our Lord, before all ages, now and forevermore! Amen.