

## “How to Be Perfect”

- I. Sinful nature not eradicated.
  - A. Our freedom of choice must be preserved. **Revelation 22:17**
  - B. Some who don't understand just give up. Others try to be perfect through doing something.
  - C. **Jude 24** speaks of God presenting us “faultless” before the presence of God. HOW?
  
- II. The story of the wedding garment. **Matthew 22:1-14**
  - A. The invited guests refuse to come to the wedding. **Vs 1-7**
  - B. An open invitation is given to anyone-good or bad. **Vs 8-10**
  - C. They were all given the opportunity to receive a wedding garment but one man refused. **Verses 11-14**
  - D. What the wedding garment represents.
    1. The spotless character of Christ.

“By the wedding garment in the parable is represented the pure, spotless character which Christ's true followers will possess.” *Christ's Object Lessons*” page 310
    2. The robe of Christ's righteousness. **Isaiah 61:10**

“Only the covering which Christ Himself has provided can make us meet (prepared) to appear in God's presence. This covering, the robe of His own righteousness, Christ will put upon every *repenting, believing* soul....This robe, woven in the loom of heaven, has in it not one thread of human devising. Christ in His humanity wrought out a perfect character, and this character He offers to impart to us. ‘All our righteousnesses are as filthy rags’ (Isaiah 64:6)....By His perfect obedience He has made it possible for every human being to obey God's commandments.” *Ibid, 311,312*

- A. What submission brings to us.

“When we *submit* ourselves to Christ, the heart is united with His heart, the will is merged in His will, the mind becomes one with His mind, the thoughts are brought into captivity to Him; we live His life. This is what it means to be clothed with the garment of His righteousness. Then as the Lord looks upon us He sees not the fig-leaf garment, not the nakedness and deformity of sin, but His own robe of righteousness, which is perfect obedience to the law of Jehovah.” *Ibid, 312*
  
- B. Why didn't the man want to wear the wedding garment?
  1. He did not see his need. He thought that he was good enough. He refused to *repent*.
  2. He didn't *believe* that the wedding garment would accomplish anything.
  3. He was not willing to *submit* to the opportunity to wear the wedding garment.
  
- I. Perfection seen in the harvest principle. **Mark 4:26-29**
  - A. The Christian life is about growth. If we are not growing-we are dying. We need to grow in our ability to *repent, believe, and submit*.
  
- II. How can we be sure that sin will not come up again?
  - A. **Nahum 1:9** says that God will make an utter end and that affliction will not rise up the second time.
  - B. The Greek word for perfection is *telos* which means mature.
  - C. When Christ comes He is holding a sickle in His hand and He comes to reap the harvest. **Revelation 14:14-16**
  - D. If we are connected by a relationship with Jesus, growth will be automatic. **John 15:1-8**
  - E. If we allow Him, Jesus has promised to finish the work that He has started in us. **Philippians 1:6**