

Intro:

READ WLC Q&A 149

Main Point of Text: The preacher has lived and observed that no person has ever done good enough because their works are marred by sin; he concludes this is all due to the fact that they have lost original righteousness.

Sermon Point: *Nothing short of perfection will do.*

Move 1: *Every human being is a sinner, including you.*

LC: “No man is able ... perfectly to keep the commandments of God” (thus, sins):

- LC: “... either of himself”:
 - Rom. 5:12, Psalm 51:5: we are born into Adam’s Original Sin.
 - Thus, we are born dead: Ephesians 2:10. “T: in TULIP.
- LC: “or by any grace received in this life” (against perfectionism):
 - *For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would.* (Gal 5:17; see also Rom. 7:19)
 - LC 78 on imperfection of sanctification in this life (and 81 on why assurance can waver)
 - 1 John 1:8-10; John 15:5

Move 2: *The evidence of everyone’s life demands a verdict of “guilty sinner”, including yours.*

LC: “but doth daily break them” (not keeping the Moral Law is breaking):

- “in thought” (remember Tenth Commandment, *covet = desire*; Mt. 5:28, lustful look is adultery):
 - Gen. 6:5: *And GOD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.* Before Flood.
 - After Flood: *... for the imagination of man's heart is evil from his youth ...* (Gen 8:21)
 - Rom. 2:16: *In the day ... God shall judge the secrets of men by Jesus Christ ...*
- “word”: *But I say unto you, That every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment. For by thy words thou shalt be justified, and by thy words thou shalt be condemned.* (Matthew 12:36-37) (See also James 1:26ff)
- “and deed”: Revelation 20:12-13, everyone will be judged “according to their works”. 2 Cor. 5:10: *For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad.*
- Sin is: 1 Jn. 3:4: transgression of His Law (Ex. 20:1-17; Rom. 2:15). James: not just commission, omission (4:17); if broken one, broke all (2:10). Paul, whatever is not of faith is sin (Romans 14:23). No one meets the mark: READ Romans 3:9-19, 23

Move 3: Guilty people cannot say they are good, nor be with an infinitely good God in heaven.

LC: “No man is able, either of himself, or by any grace received in this life, perfectly to keep the commandments of God”. Without one mistake:

- In Garden before Fall, Adam and Eve were able and did. Now, SC 82, no mere man: Jesus.
- Now, *For in many things we offend all ...* (James 3:2)
- Ecclesiastes 7:20 (quoted in Romans 3:12, after Psalm 14:3 (53:1) in vss. 10-11):
 - King Saul was doing same thing as Apostle Paul: assessing the damage, making conclusion.
 - For mankind is not “righteous” in earth; 1 John 5:17, all unrighteousness is sin.
 - Evidence: none who does good and none who does not sin. No one, never is purely holy.
- Thus, Scriptures emphasize Jesus, the Lamb of God, was “without sin”, Heb. 4:15; “did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth”, 1 Pet. 2:22; “in him is no sin”, 1 Jn. 3:5. 2 Cor. 5:21: *For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.*
- Psalm 130:3-4. Paul’s point: Rom. 3:23-24. We all need Jesus, Perfection Personified.

Conclusion:

Nothing short of perfection will do.