

His Perfect, Precious Person, Part 2

This series was taught at North Christian Church during August of 2023. To watch or listen, please visit www.nccdighton.org

One of the songs we'll be singing after class today is very appropriate to this series; it's called "More Precious than Silver".

Is that not what we read from the dear apostle Peter on Thursday???)

And isn't that unique word, "precious", in the very title of our series?? (it's not used very often throughout the Bible)

Coincidence?! - i think not! (right Brendan?)

God has His ways of bringing everything together for us, doesn't He?! :)

His grace is overwhelming; and His love is faithful. May we never forget it!

Hopefully you listened to Part 1 on Thursday; and if not you still have the opportunity to catch up on the website.

Today we will go forward from there; seeing a few key points from Part 1, as well.

First of all, we were given a very important reminder from the Spirit, **about WHY we do our best to learn from the Bible every day.**

Why do we gather together and study the Word together??

Who is it all talking about , in the end???

Jn 5:39AMP *You search and investigate and pore over the Scriptures diligently, because you suppose and trust that you have eternal life through them. And these [very Scriptures] **testify about Me!***

We seek wisdom through the Bible to discover the seemingly endless amount of grace and truth about TLJC, and all of His glory!

May we never lose our focus on His Person.

HE'S the One this is all about, every day we wake up.

And of course, that is NOT a slight to the Father and the Spirit, as they are all one God, one in essence.

In Part 1, the Spirit led us into what the Bible says about **the Perfection of the Lord Jesus.**

And as we progress, He's going to show us what it means to call Him "precious"; and **to personally know Him as precious in our own souls.**

First of all, it's vital to understand that the Perfection of Jesus was accomplished by Him **in His humanity!**

Yes, Jesus is God in the flesh, but He humbly **put aside** His deity as He fulfilled His mission as a human being,...

... and showed us what it's like to live a godly life as a human being, even conquering sin itself.

Don't ever forget, He became 100% human, for our sakes.

Php 2:4 *Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. (Php 2:5) Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, (Php 2:6) who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped,*

(Php 2:7) but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. (Php 2:8) And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

A point the Spirit emphasized for us is that Jesus accomplished all this goodness, being obedient to the Father's plan all the way to death, **FROM HIS HUMANITY.**

He became **truly human**, and we can truly relate to Him because of this!!

He was tempted in every area, as we will see, FROM HIS HUMANITY!

He resisted sinning even one time, FROM HIS HUMANITY.

How do we know He did all this FROM HIS HUMANITY??

Php 2 just told us that quite clearly.... **He came down from heaven and became truly human, putting aside His deity.**

And so, we are inspired by this man, Jesus Christ, who did all this for us, and even became like one of us so He could call us **brothers.**

And the vital thing is that **He became victorious as a human being,** for our sakes and to the glory of God the Father.

Then we were reminded of **the righteous requirements of God the Father...** which should give us a healthy fear of God, by the way.

Mt 5:48 *You therefore must be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect.*

Not only are we told to be perfect, which is scary for us on our own, without Christ...

... but notice this is necessary because **your heavenly Father is PERFECT.**

"Be Perfect": Our Heavenly Father is **perfectly** holy and pure, thus requiring **purity** for us to go to Him. **Mt 5:48**

Of course, Jesus is the One who makes us pure, by grace.

It's through faith in Him that we are transformed into His righteousness, thanks be to God. (**2Co 5:21, Php 3:9**)

Remember in the OT, the Jews were called to sacrifice **spotless animals** to the Lord.

This was a **temporary covering for man's sins**, ...

... but pointed to a once-for-all sacrifice one day by the promised Messiah.

This was a picture of the fact that the promised Messiah had to be perfect, spotless, without fault; this satisfying the holy, righteous demands of God for the judgment of sin.

Lev 22:17-22 And the Lord spoke to Moses, saying, 18 "Speak to Aaron and his sons and all the people of Israel and say to them, When any one of the house of Israel or of the sojourners in Israel presents a burnt offering as his offering, for any of their vows or freewill offerings that they offer to the Lord, 19 if it is to be accepted for you it shall be a male without blemish, of the bulls or the sheep or the goats.

20 You shall not offer anything that has a blemish, for it will not be acceptable for you. 21 And when anyone offers a sacrifice of

*peace offerings to the Lord to fulfill a vow or as a freewill offering from the herd or from the flock, **to be accepted it must be perfect; there shall be no blemish in it.** 22 Animals blind or disabled or mutilated or having a discharge or an itch or scabs you shall not offer to the Lord or give them to the Lord as a food offering on the altar.*

This reveals to us God's perfect requirements, and how they must be met.

Deu 17:1 *"You shall not sacrifice to the Lord your God an ox or a sheep in which is a blemish, any defect whatever, for that is an **abomination** to the Lord your God.*

Think of the audacity we humans have to offer something to God that we know is flawed...

... to offer the One who gave us life, and life's gifts as well,...

... to offer Him something that's **not** our best! (think of the call for our "first fruits" when giving to Him)

Not only does He deserve our best, in gratitude, but it would also be an abomination to His Holiness to give Him back something flawed.

Let's now jump forward to a passage in 1Jn., about the need to satisfy God's perfect righteousness.

1 Jn 4:9-10 *In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. 10 In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the **propitiation** for our sins.*

Many of you have heard of the doctrine of Propitiation in the Bible.

This means God's righteous standards had to be **satisfied!**

The Righteous One in heaven requires a **just payment** for sin.

The Greek word of propitiation means **atonement...**

... something or someone has to atone for, or pay for, sin.

So, we've jumped forward many centuries from the OT sacrifices... to Jesus fulfilling the call of the Messiah to save His people from their sins.

And 2 things had to be true to satisfy God's judgment of our sins... the sacrifice had to be **in the likeness of the flesh** (truly human like us), and He had to be a **worthy** sacrifice.

The apostle Peter had a lot to say about this, in a very reverential way!

He truly **revered** the Lord Jesus as His **precious** Lord and Savior, and hopefully this will help us all have a **deeper love**

and appreciation for Him, by the time we're done with this series.

I know that's my great desire; to not take Him for granted, and to fully appreciate His Person, and all He went through for me.

1 Pe 1:17-21 *And if you call on him as Father who judges impartially according to each one's deeds, conduct yourselves with fear throughout the time of your exile, 18 knowing that you were **ransomed** from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold, 19 **but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot. (do you see it?- the OT sacrifices were a "type" of Jesus Christ coming to be the true and final sacrifice)***

*20 He was foreknown before the foundation of the world but was made manifest in the last times for your sake, 21 who **through him** are believers in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God.*

Notice the analogy, or typology, from the OT sacrifices that were required.

They were a picture, for many centuries, of the Messiah who was to come to be the Savior of the world...

... giving Himself up as the perfect, spotless Lamb of God!

And also remember when Jesus came on the scene in His public ministry...

... what did John the Baptist refer to Him as??

Here's an introduction of sorts to **the holiness of the Person of Jesus Christ:**

Joh 1:24 *(Now they had been sent from the Pharisees.)*

Joh 1:25 They asked him, "Then why are you baptizing, if you are neither the Christ, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?"

Joh 1:26 John answered them, "I baptize with water, but among you stands one you do not know,

Joh 1:27 even he who comes after me, the strap of whose sandal I am not worthy to untie." (some might say "come on, John, isn't that a little over the top?! Aren't you being dramatic, exaggerating a little??" UNLESS Jesus is someone truly HOLY)

Joh 1:28 These things took place in Bethany across the Jordan, where John was baptizing.

Joh 1:29 The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world! (what's implied here is He is the Lamb without blemish, spotless and blameless, and acceptable to God)

We can ask ourselves these questions:

How does one take away the sin of the world if He Himself isn't completely worthy to do so??

How does Jesus qualify as the Lamb of God unless He is perfectly holy and without blemish??

He doesn't.... so He MUST BE, or His sacrifice would not be acceptable to God the Father on our behalf.

Hopefully you're getting the full picture in your soul, and this brings us to study **the perfect holiness of Jesus Christ; the spotless Lamb of God.**

Let's continue with some of Peter's insight from his eyewitness account of the Person of Jesus:

1 Pe 1:18 *knowing that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold, 19 but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot.*

1Pe 2:22-24 *He committed no sin, neither was deceit found in his mouth. 23 When he was reviled, he did not revile in return; when he suffered, he did not threaten, but continued entrusting himself to him who judges justly. 24 He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness.*

1 Pe 3:18 *For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit*

This speaks of Jesus' PERFECT righteousness, pointing again to the fact that He was without sin His entire life.

To Be PERFECTLY Righteous: Think about the fact that Jesus' words, actions, and even the thoughts and intentions of His heart were all pure. He was truly "without sin", in every way!

He was COMPLETELY, 100% RIGHTEOUS!! - Dwell on that for a minute!

In His humanity, He also never faltered or wavered away from His faith in God the Father, (which also would have been sin , because anything not of faith is sin (**Ro 14:23**)).

His perfection was vital to His sacrifice, and He knew it.

The Holy One: Jesus knew His mission on earth from a very young age, and He also knew He was born not only to die, but **He was also born to live a perfect and sinless life as the Savior of the world.**

Think about it.... He had to **be qualified** to become our Savior!

Someone can't save someone else if they themselves are in prison too!

It takes a FREE man to rescue the captives, right?!

Jesus was well-pleasing to the Father, always, at every moment of His earthly life.

It's just a mind-blow when you consider the trials of day-to-day life!!

As we talked about; Jesus **never** lost His temper and sinned, and Jesus **never** fell into the temptations of things like lust or greed...

... and Jesus **never** even told a little white lie (that's one reason some people hated Him so much, He was graciously but 100% honest!)

When you consider on top of that that He was personally tempted by the devil for 40 straight days in the desert,... (see **Mt 4**)

... it's something beyond our full appreciation, what He accomplished.

This is the perfect, precious Person of Jesus that we're treasuring in this series.

We'll now get into some of Holy Scripture that describes His wonderful purity; that He was truly human, "yet without sin".

To Be PERFECTLY Righteous: Jesus was perfect in the sense that He was completely without sin, and therefore "unstained" as a human being!!! Is 53:9, Mt 27:4, Lk 23:41,47, Jn 8:46, 2Co 5:21, Heb 2:17,4:15, 7:26-28, 1Pe 2:22, 1Jn 2:1-2,3:5

Is 53:9 And they made his grave with the wicked and with a rich man in his death, although he had done no violence, and there was no deceit in his mouth.

There's a small part of the famous prophecy in **Is 53** about the Messiah and the death He would suffer for us.

Notice His innocence was predicted, as well.

Now, what's also very encouraging is how **God even uses unbelievers to His glory....** to declare His righteousness, even!

The following unbelievers could not help but admit that Jesus was an innocent and pure Person!

Mt 27:3-4 *Then when Judas, his betrayer, saw that Jesus was condemned, he changed his mind and brought back the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and the elders, 4 saying, "I have sinned by betraying **innocent blood**." They said, "What is that to us? See to it yourself.*

Judas clearly knew he had made a big mistake because he knew Jesus was completely innocent of any wrongdoing.

Lk 23:39-43 *One of the criminals who were hanged railed at him, saying, "Are you not the Christ? Save yourself and us!" 40 But the other rebuked him, saying, "Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? 41 And we indeed justly, for we are receiving the due reward of our deeds; **but this man has done nothing wrong.**" 42 And he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." 43 And he said to him, "Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in Paradise."*

This type of conclusion in the heart of the 2nd thief must have come **from the Holy Spirit** (after all, He only knew Jesus for a few hours!)

Lk 23:47

*Now when the centurion saw what had taken place, he praised God, saying, "**Certainly this man was innocent!**"*

Who knows, maybe at this very moment this Roman soldier became born again and saved.

He could not deny the grace that he had just witnessed (i.e.- Jesus taking care of His mother even though hanging on a cross, and Jesus asking forgiveness for His enemies, and Jesus handling the agony without drinking the wine for his pain, just to name a few!)

And then, the Lord Himself didn't hold back from declaring His innocence and worthiness... speaking to the Pharisees...

Jn 8:46 *Which one of you convicts me of sin? If I tell the truth, why do you not believe me?*

2 Co 5:21 *For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.*

Again;

To Be PERFECTLY Righteous: Jesus was perfect in the sense that He was completely without sin, and therefore "unstained" as a human being!!! Is 53:9, Mt 27:4, Lk 23:41,47, Jn 8:46, 2Co 5:21, Heb 2:17,4:15, 7:26-28, 1Pe 2:22, 1Jn 2:1-2,3:5

Heb 2:14-18 *Since therefore the children share in flesh and blood, he himself likewise partook of the same things, that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, 15 and deliver all those who through fear of death were subject to lifelong slavery. 16 For surely it is not angels that he helps, but he helps the offspring of Abraham. 17 Therefore he had to be made like his brothers in every respect, so that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people. 18 For because he himself has suffered when tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted.*

Heb 4:14-16 *Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. 15 For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. 16 Let us then*

with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

Heb 7:26-28 *For it was indeed fitting that we should have such a high priest, **holy, innocent, unstained**, separated from sinners, and exalted above the heavens. 27 He has no need, like those high priests, to offer sacrifices daily, first for his own sins and then for those of the people, since he did this once for all when he offered up himself. 28 For the law appoints men in their weakness as high priests, but the word of the oath, which came later than the law, appoints a **Son who has been made perfect forever.***

1 Pe 2:22 *He committed no sin, neither was deceit found in his mouth.*

1 Jn 2:1-2 *My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, **Jesus Christ the righteous**. 2 He is the **propitiation** for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.*

1 Jn 3:5 *You know that he appeared to take away sins, and **in him there is no sin.***

Now, as a sort of teaser trailer for Thursday, Jesus not only remained Perfect in His humanity, but He was also so very Precious in His soul, and Precious to God the Father.

His love separated Him from any other human being who ever lived.

And love is what motivated Him to keep Himself pure, and even to follow through on the Father's plan to go to the Cross for us all.

Think about it; He could have remained perfect and holy and righteous His whole life, and then decided NOT to go to the Cross!

After all, He was the only Person ever who was truly NOT deserving of judgment!!

And yet, His perfect, precious heart decided to go forward with the ultimate sacrifice.

I'll leave you with this before we go on and celebrate Communion...

Peter has already talked about His precious blood in 1Pe 1.

1 Pe 2:4-6 *As you come to him, a living stone rejected by men but in the sight of God **chosen and precious**, 5 you yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. 6 For it stands in Scripture:*

"Behold, I am laying in Zion a stone,

a cornerstone chosen and precious,

and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame."

We'll learn more about His Precious Person in Part 3...

Let's now celebrate Communion, and feel free to leave your Bibles open if you like, as we'll be reading a couple passages.

COMMUNION

Last Sunday, our dear Pastor asked us to remember certain things when we celebrate Communion today.

A summary from his message last week, at least from my perspective:

Don't come to the throne of grace for your own needs, even to something so special as Communion, when you aren't being gracious towards others, possibly holding some resentment in your heart towards another believer.

Mt 5:21-24 *"You have heard that it was said to those of old, 'You shall not murder; and whoever murders will be liable to judgment.' 22 But I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother will be liable to judgment; whoever insults his brother will be liable to the council; and whoever says, 'You fool!' will be liable to the hell of fire. 23 So if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, 24 leave your gift there before the altar and go. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift.*

1 Co 11:17-34 *But in the following instructions I do not commend you, because when you come together it is not for the better but for the worse. 18 For, in the first place, when you come together as a church, I hear that there are divisions among you. And I believe it in part, 19 for there must be factions among you in order that those who are genuine among you may be recognized. 20 When you come together, it is not the Lord's supper that you eat. 21 For in eating, each one goes ahead with his own meal. One goes hungry, another gets drunk. 22 What! Do you not have houses to eat and drink in? Or do you despise the church of God and humiliate those who have nothing? What shall I say to you? Shall I commend you in this? No, I will not.*

JUMP TO VS. 27...

27 Whoever, therefore, eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of profaning the body and blood of the Lord. 28 Let a person examine himself, then, and so eat of the bread and drink of the cup. 29 For anyone who eats and drinks without discerning the body eats and drinks judgment on himself. 30 That is why many of you are weak and ill, and some have died. 31 But if we judged ourselves truly, we would not be judged. 32 But when we are judged by the Lord, we are disciplined so that we may not be condemned along with the world.

33 So then, my brothers, when you come together to eat, wait for one another — 34 if anyone is hungry, let him eat at home — so that when you come together it will not be for judgment.

Hopefully we all can now celebrate the Lord's Supper with a clear conscience, forgiving one another in our hearts, dropping any resentment that's against His forgiveness of ourselves, even.

23 For I received from the Lord what I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took bread, 24 and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and said, "This is my body which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me." 25 In the same way also he took the cup, after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." 26 For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.