

His Perfect, Precious Person, Part 3

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

Rev 5:6-10 *And between the throne and the four living creatures and among the elders I saw a Lamb standing, as though it had been slain, with seven horns and with seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God sent out into all the earth. 7 And he went and took the scroll from the right hand of him who was seated on the throne. 8 And when he had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each holding a harp, and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints.*

9 And they sang a new song, saying, "Worthy are you to take the scroll and to open its seals, for you were slain, and by your blood you ransomed people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation, 10 and you have made them a kingdom and priests to our God, and they shall reign on the earth."

As we know, **His precious blood**, the blood of the worthy One, our Lord Jesus Christ, purchased the freedom of His children by giving Himself up on the Cross.

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.**

Again, I ask you to think about the fact that, to be our Savior, Jesus had to be QUALIFIED.

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

And as the qualified Savior of the world, **Jesus was well-pleasing to the Father**, at every moment of His earthly life.

Mt 17:1-5 *And after six days Jesus took with him **Peter** and James, and John his brother, and led them up a high mountain by themselves. 2 And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became white as light. 3 And behold, there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, talking with him. 4 And **Peter** said to Jesus, "Lord, it is good that we are here. If you wish, I will make three tents here, one for you and one for Moses and one for Elijah." 5 He was still speaking when, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them, and a voice from the cloud said, "**This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him.**"*

Then Peter, as an older man, just a few decades later, recounts this event that he witnessed in his letter to the churches...

As we've learned from our dear Pastor over the years, nothing is disjoint in the Bible.

And in fact, the letters to the churches are filled with the apostles expounding on what they learned from their time walking and talking with Jesus!

2 Pe 1:16-18 *For we did not follow cleverly devised myths when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses of his majesty. 17 For when he received honor and glory from God the Father, and the voice was borne to him by the Majestic Glory, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased," 18 we ourselves heard this very voice borne from heaven, for we were with him on the holy mountain.*

The point is that God the Father was **well-pleased** with His Son because He was always perfectly obedient...

... and **obedience comes from love**, as our Lord said throughout the Gospels (if you love Me, you will keep My commands, right?!)

What a precious Son to a Father!

There's nothing more precious to a father than when his son humbly listens to him and follows his instructions in life.

And again, in Jesus' case, we're talking about perfection!!

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 (flesh and blood) 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. (man)*

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.*

This is possible for us because we have the perfect and holy High Priest representing us!

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.***

This perfect Son, the only perfect man who ever lived, was qualified to offer Himself up for us.

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.***

Jesus not only remained Perfect in His humanity, but He was also so very **Precious** in His soul, and **Precious** to God the Father.

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

In other words, He didn't remain perfect because He was a robot, just blindly obeying the Father, on automatic pilot, if you will.

No!!! - He never chose to sin because God's perfect love motivated Him to obey His dear heavenly Father...

... just as His love motivated Him to sacrifice Himself for us.

His Precious Person: God's perfect love is what motivated Jesus to go all the way to, and through, the Cross. THIS is what makes Him not only perfect, but precious. 1Pe 1:19, 2:4, Heb 12:2

His perfect, precious heart decided to go forward with the ultimate sacrifice, despite His complete innocence.

One more time, let's read these precious passages in Peter's 1st letter...

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.** 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.***

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."

From another perspective...

Is there anything more precious than innocence??

I mean, TRUE innocence.

Not in the same sense as when we look at a helpless baby...

... they may be vulnerable and cute, but they are **not** innocent, as we know from the sin nature that quickly reveals itself ! :)

We're talking innocence in the sense of total purity.

And why was His blood "precious"?? - because He was "without blemish or spot", right?

This was, and is, the Son of God.

He is the perfect Son of our God and Father, who was so well-pleased with Him that He declared it from the heavens at His baptism, and on the holy mountain...

... but this same perfect Son is our perfect brother, in whom we rejoice, in whom we have a PERFECT HOPE.

He is so precious to us because His love motivated Him to be so faithful to us, even while we were His enemies!! (**Ro 5:6-10**)

He's so precious to us because He's completely reliable and trustworthy!

And we know when He says He's going to do something, He does it, or will do it, without fail!!

We love because He first loved us, right?

So, we can take His Word as gold, like no other human being's words, because He is **perfectly** faithful.

Jn 14:1-3 *"Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. 2 In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? 3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also.*

Jn 14:18 *"I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you.*

Jn 14:27 *Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.*

Very simply, He is our precious cornerstone, on whom we can stand, forever!!

Eph 2:17-22 *And he came and preached peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near. 18 For through him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father. 19 So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, 20 built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, **Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone**, 21 in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord. 22 In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit.*

Think about this, my friends...

... because of our Lord's precious Person, we have perfect hope...

... and it's a hope that carries us every day without end, and all the way to the end.

We believers ALWAYS have hope, and we should never despair in this life, because in Him we have the victory!

Even if one day we face a martyr's death, which some believers get the privilege of doing...

... even then, **hope in Christ Jesus will sustain us**, because we know He's the perfect One to hope in, and what He has said is GOING TO HAPPEN.

Mt 12:18-21 *"Behold, my servant whom I have chosen, my beloved with whom my soul is well pleased. I will put my Spirit upon him, and he will proclaim justice to the Gentiles. 19 He will not quarrel or cry aloud, nor will anyone hear his voice in the streets; 20 a bruised reed he will not break, and a smoldering wick he will not quench, until he brings justice to victory; 21 and in his name the Gentiles will hope."*

Hope in Christ sustains us believers...

... we have this **overcoming, transcendent hope** through His Spirit, through all things,...

... and we know we will all see Him soon, and face to face.

1 Co 13:12 *For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I have been fully known.*

When you can rely on someone 100%, then you have no worries or doubts, right?

If you know anyone in your life that you hold that opinion of, then you just KNOW in your heart that you can count on them, right??

You just know it!!

How much more the perfect Son of God, who loved us and gave His life for us??

Gal 2:16 *I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.*

HE is why we can walk around with this boldness, a confidence the world does not know about. (**Heb 4:16**)

It's because of HIM; His perfect, loving, faithful, precious Person.

Let's finish up our series with a few more passages about **this perfect hope we have in God and Christ.**

Our Perfect Hope: We can have perfect hope in our Lord Jesus Christ because He is perfect in every way; always, and forevermore! Jer 17:5-8, Ro 5:1-5, 2Th 2:16-17, 2Ti 1:8-14, Heb 6:13-20

Jer 17:5-8 *Thus says the Lord:*

"Cursed is the man who trusts in man and makes flesh his strength, whose heart turns away from the Lord.⁶ He is like a shrub in the desert, and shall not see any good come. He shall dwell in the parched places of the wilderness in an uninhabited salt land.

7 "Blessed is the man who trusts in the Lord, whose trust is the Lord.⁸ He is like a tree planted by water, that sends out its roots by the stream, and does not fear when heat comes, for its

leaves remain green, and is not anxious in the year of drought, for it does not cease to bear fruit."

Ro 5:1-5 *Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. 2 Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God. 3 More than that, we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance,*

4 and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, 5 and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.

2 Th 2:16-17 *Now may our Lord Jesus Christ himself, and God our Father, who loved us and gave us eternal comfort and good hope through grace, 17 comfort your hearts and establish them in every good work and word.*

2 Ti 1:8-14 *Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony about our Lord, nor of me his prisoner, but share in suffering for the gospel by the power of God, 9 who saved us and called us to a holy calling, not because of our works but because of his own purpose and grace, which he gave us in Christ Jesus before the ages began, 10 and which now has been manifested through the appearing of our Savior Christ Jesus, who abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel,*

11 for which I was appointed a preacher and apostle and teacher, 12 which is why I suffer as I do. But I am not ashamed, for I know

whom I have believed, and I am convinced that he is able to guard until that Day what has been entrusted to me. 13

*Follow the pattern of the sound words that you have heard from me, in the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. 14 By the Holy Spirit who dwells within us, **guard the good deposit entrusted to you.***

There's a perspective to grab onto!

Heb 6:13-20 *For when God made a promise to Abraham, since he had no one greater by whom to swear, he swore by himself, 14 saying, "Surely I will bless you and multiply you." 15 And thus Abraham, **having patiently waited (there's hope!),** obtained the promise. 16 For people swear by something greater than themselves, and in all their disputes an oath is final for confirmation.*

*17 So when God desired to show **more convincingly** to the heirs of the promise the unchangeable character of his purpose, **he guaranteed it with an oath,** 18 so that by two unchangeable things, in which it is impossible for God to lie, we who have fled for refuge might have strong encouragement to **hold fast to the hope set before us.** 19 We have this as a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul, **a hope that enters into the inner place behind the curtain,** 20 where Jesus has gone as a forerunner on our behalf, having become a high priest forever after the order of Melchizedek.*

His Precious Person: God's perfect love is what motivated Jesus to go all the way to, and through, the Cross. THIS is what makes Him not only perfect, but precious. 1Pe 1:19, 2:4, Heb 12:2