

A Publication of the Port Orchard Church of Christ

March 3, 2024

Are You Perfect?

Therefore, you are to be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect (Matthew 5:48)

More often than not, when we hear the word “perfect” being used we think in terms of being without fault, flawless and unblemished and because of this, if someone were to ask us if we are perfect, our first inclination is to quickly say no. We all have faults, flaws and blemishes that often show up in what we say or do (Romans 3:23, 1 John 1:8-10). Yet, Jesus is telling us that we are to be perfect. Is He telling us to be something that it is impossible to be? I think not.

Listen as the writer of Hebrews tells us to leave the doctrine of the first principles of Christ and press on to perfection (Heb. 6:1). Don't confuse the words perfect and perfection to mean without fault, flaw or blemish as used in Matthew 5:48 and Hebrews 6:1. In both instances the words are in reference to maturing as a child of God. I have come to the conclusion that the best way I can say this is simply this, Grow Up, don't stay at the edge of the baptistry after coming forth a new creature in Christ. Don't be a babe in Christ all your life.

In some ways the Hebrew writer speaks of those who ought to be teachers, they had been taught the first principles but they did not retain them in their heart, they did not actively put them into practice and now need someone to teach them again. They have a need for milk, not solid food (Heb. 5:12-14). From the moment we come forth from the watery grave of baptism as new creatures in Christ, we should strive to grow into maturity as a child of God. That maturity is only going to be accomplished by growing in the knowledge and grace of the Lord Jesus Christ (2 Pet. 3:14-18)

How do you grow in the knowledge and grace of the Lord? I must say that this growth does not come from attending just one service of the Lord's church on Sunday morning and listening to a preacher for about forty minutes. It comes from diligently feeding on God's word. It begins with the first principles but we must grow out of that stage. We must go from focusing on what must I do to be saved to focusing on what must I do to keep saved. 2 Timothy 2:15 tells us to be diligent to present ourselves a workman who does not need to be ashamed, accurately handling the word of truth. The only way to accurately handle the word of truth is to know it and we will only know the truth if we feed on the truth by spending quality time in study of it.

Striving for perfection, being perfect spiritually, we will be rooted in Christ and have solid convictions upon which we stand. We will not be carried about by every little doctrine men come up with. With strong convictions, people who know and see us will know what we believe, where we stand and why we stand where we do spiritually (1 Peter 3:15).

It goes without saying that Matthew 5:48 and Hebrews 6:1 set before us a tremendous goal. These passages challenge us to be all that we can be in the kingdom of God. And if we are going to be all that we can be, if we are truly striving for perfection, seeking to be perfect spiritually, it will require that we diligently follow Peter's instructions found in 2 Peter 1:2-11: add to your faith moral excellence, knowledge, self-control, perseverance, godliness, brotherly kindness and love.

We all know that in the fleshly sense, we will never be perfect, try as hard as we might, it just will not happen. But in the spiritual sense, it is a different story. Now for the big question: are we pressing on to perfection spiritually, are we perfect in the biblical sense (2 Peter 3:14)? If we cannot answer yes to this question then it's on to page 2 and that will not be pretty. For what it's worth, all this is just how one old man feels about the challenge of Matt. 5:48 and Heb. 6:1.

- Charles Hicks

Our Prayer List

- Please keep Dale Sanders' niece Genni Stone who is at 24 weeks carrying twins and concerns are she may deliver early. She is home but carefully being observed. Pray for the babies and their loved ones.
- Pray for Neda Herbert, who is receiving heart treatment.
- Pray for Nancy Armenta's sister Ida who is recovering at Swedish Hospital from an aneurysm.
- Pray for Alyssa, our new Sister in Christ.
- Continue pray for to Michael and his medical issues. Please pray for him to have faith and trust in abundance in his new adventure with God.
- Jon Powless would like prayers about his foot. A decision will be made this week about whether or not he will have additional surgery on his foot.
- There are a lot of illnesses currently in our area. Pray for quick healing for all those who are suffering, and for safely for all those suffering in the cold weather.
- Pray for our Deacons and their families: Josh Bedford, Dan Gross, Roger Taylor, Fuzzy Volpitta, and Gary White. Floyd Whitlock, Cisco Velez.
- Pray also for our Elders and their families: Gary Chasteen, Darrell Fry, Bob McDaniel, Brad Orser, Dave Snypp & Greg Warner.
- Trent and the many missions within our congregation as we work towards God's plan for us.

Financial Peace University

Are your finances not working? Dave Ramsey has a seven step Plan called Financial Peace University that will change your financial life and your outlook on the money that you have and will have.

We will be starting a financial peace class on March the 20th at 6:15 p.m. at our church building. If this is for you, please talk with Trent or Darrell and sign up!

Delano Bay Christian Camp

Registration is now live! Register for camps or Spring Retreat online, today! We are going to have limited space this year because of only having three camps. We will have enough space for 30 girl campers and 30 boy campers at each camp, so make sure you get registered early!

Spring Retreat 2024 (7th-12th Grade) - May 3rd-5th

DBCC Family Day 2024 - June 1st time TBD

STS (8th-12th Grade) - June 30th-July 5th

1st-3rd Grade Camp - July 7th-10th

YTS (4th-7th Grade) - July 21st-25th

The logo for Delano Bay Christian Camp (DBCC) consists of the letters 'D B' stacked above 'C C' in a white, bold, sans-serif font, set against a black square background.

POCOC Web Site (<http://pococ.weebly.com/>)

- To find our most current Bulletin, Order of Worship, & Worship Leader Schedule, Go to <http://pococ.weebly.com/> then click on Bulletins & Newsletters.
- Current Event Calendar - Click on News & Events.
- Live stream of worship services on YouTube Channel - Previous video recordings, too:



https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCL_SrX11URAkOYw7JOR9ZIQ then click on the desired video.

Please subscribe to be notified when new videos post or when we go live.

Sunday Worship March 3, 2023 (10:30 am – 12:00 – noon) (No children's church this week) Watch live-stream or after our worship time: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCL_SrX11URAkOYw7JOR9ZIQ					
February Servers – Brian Bungart Elijah Herbert Dan Gross Terry Bratcher					
Speaker: Trent Herbert	Singing Jon Powless	Scripture: Trent Herbert	Prayer: Greg Warner	Communion: Dave Snynn	Offering: Dave Snynn
9:30 am Adult Class: Auditorium Led by Trent Herbert			Children Class: Downstairs Two Classes: children and pre-teen		
Call Laura Fry or the Church Office (360-876-2604) for Zoom Meeting ID					
Men's Fellowship Downstairs Fellowship Room Tuesdays - 10:00 am			Ladies in the Word Upstairs Overflow Room Tuesdays - 10:00 am		
Bible Class & Prayer Colossians (in person or on Zoom) Wednesdays: 5:00 - 6:00 pm			Ladies Prayer Group LaDonna's home – 10:00 am		
Port Orchard Church of Christ 4135 Carr Lane SE Port Orchard, WA 98366 360-876-2604 - churchpococ@gmail.com			February 25, 2024 - Tithes & Offerings – \$ 5,325.00		
			If you have any questions, please give me a call. God bless you. Gary Chasteen (cell) 360-731-4104		

Communion and Tithes & Offerings

The bread and fruit of the vine will be served during our communion time. You also have the option to pick up your communion supplies as you enter the auditorium. It contains both the juice and the bread.

There are also a few options for giving your tithes & offerings:

- 1) The collection box is in the foyer at the entrance to the auditorium.
- 2) Online bill-pay with your bank or credit union. Your bank will mail your check for you.
- 3) Mail your tithe/offering check directly to the Church address below. We have a lock mailbox.

Happy Birthday!

March 2024: Brad Orser – 12, Troy Hill – 15, Darrell Fry – 25, Roger Taylor – 31.

April 2024: Jim Snead – 6, Jacob Hammock – 10, Brandon Karn – 10, Rick Velasco – 13, Misty Hammock – 15, James Greer – 17.

Speak Life

Verse 1

Some days life feels perfect
Other days it just ain't workin'
The good the bad the right the wrong
And everything in between
Yo it's crazy amazing
We can turn a heart through the words we say
Mountains crumble with every syllable
Hope can live or die

Chorus

So speak life speak life
To the deadest darkest night
Speak life speak life
When the sun won't shine and you don't know why
Look into the eyes of the broken hearted
Watch them come alive
As soon as you speak hope
You speak love you speak

Tag

You speak life oh
You speak life oh

Verse 2

Some days the tongue gets twisted
Other days my thoughts just fall apart
I do I don't I will I won't
It's like I'm drownin' in the deep
Well it's crazy to imagine words from our lips
As the arms of compassion
Mountains crumble with every syllable
Hope can live or die

Bridge

Lift your head a little higher
Spread the love like a fire
Hope will fall like rain
When you speak life with the words you say

Bridge

Raise your thoughts a little higher
Use your words to inspire
Joy will fall like rain
When you speak life with the things you say

Ending

Some days life feels perfect

SONG OF THE WEEK

CLICK
THIS
LINK

<https://youtu.be/dO22eL-nXfE>

Speak Life

CCLI Song # 6363633

Jamie Moore | Ryan Stevenson | Toby McKeehan

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