

# “If Thou Wilt Be Perfect”

**Matt. 19:16-22**

## Introduction:

- A. Is anyone “perfect?”
  - 1. Not in absolute sense (cf. 1 John 1:8-10).
  - 2. But in relative sense - complete or mature.
    - a. “Perfect” faith. (Jas. 2:22).
    - b. “Perfect” in love. (Matt. 5:43-48).
- B. Ruler obeyed God in many things, but was incomplete in his obedience.
- C. We may do many things and still need something to make us complete.

## Discussion:

- I. One Can Be A Good Person and Still Be Incomplete.**
  - A. Cornelius was a good man. (Acts 10:1-2, 22)
  - B. Cornelius was incomplete - needed more to be saved (Acts 11:14; 10:6, 48).
- II. One Can Have Faith and Still Be Incomplete.**
  - A. Must have faith to please God. (Heb. 11:6; John 3:16; Jas. 2:19).
  - B. Must have add works to perfect (complete) our faith. (Jas. 2:20-24).
- III. One Can Quit Sinning and Still Be Incomplete.**
  - A. One needs to quit sinning. (Rom. 6:1-2)
  - B. One must get forgiveness of past sins to be complete.
    - 1. Of sins committed as an alien. (Acts 2:38).
    - 2. Of sins committed while a Christian. (1 John 1:9; Acts 8:22)
      - a. If secret sin - confess to God.
      - b. If know to others - confess to them also. (Cf.. Mt. 5:23,24; Lk. 17:3).
- IV. One Can Be A Member of Right Church and Still Be Incomplete.**
  - A. Members of “church of God ... at Corinth” misbehaved. (1 Cor. 1:2; 5:1; 6:7).
  - B. Members may stand ground on “church question” and still be incomplete.
    - 1. Unfaithful in attendance.
    - 2. Ignore daily responsibilities to the Lord and his church.
- V. One Can Attend All Church Services and Still Be Incomplete.**
  - A. We must attend the services. (Heb. 10:25; Acts 20:7).
  - B. We may attend every service and still be unfaithful.
    - 1. If we think “faithful” and “attending regularly” to be synonyms.
    - 2. If we think of church as a “worship club”, must like a civic or service club.
    - 3. If we think and speak of the Lord only “at church.”
    - 4. If we identify with Lord’s people 1-4 hours a week, with Devil crowd the rest of the time.
    - 5. If away from church we act like never heard of Christianity: Lie, cheat, drink, gamble, etc.

## Conclusion:

- A. We must do our best to obey all commands. (Matt. 4:4).
- B. We must obey all to become a Christian and to be complete as a Christian.