

Old Union Ministers School

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Going on unto perfection

By Elder Don Watts

Introduction: Since I became a student of the Old Union Ministers School, I have benefited more than words can express. If I can offer anything for what I have received, I would like to pass on what I have been able to retain to my preaching brothers, and to society, and especially those of you who are young in the ministry. When God saved our soul, He didn't necessarily save us just to keep us out of Hell, He saved us to work for him so others could know about this wonderful thing called salvation. If we fail to strive for perfection, we could cause other failures also. This subject is meant to motivate our studies, and our growth in the workings of the ministry. This is a big work and a wonderful work, we must get prepared for it. There could be many words said, but I would rather get to the point and give you something that you can remember. Definition = perfection (the state of being perfect or complete so that nothing is wanting) Moral perfection is the complete possession of all moral excellence. To obtain perfection or to be complete in the ministry, one must want to move upward in their studies and in their teaching and preaching. Your first impressions of how you handle yourself in the pulpit, and proof to your peers that you have researched the subject matter that you are trying to preach, will take you far, or the failure of either of the above statements can hinder your ministry.

Lesson text **Heb.6:1 Therefore leaving the principles of the doctrine of Christ, let us go on unto perfection; not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works, and of faith toward God.**

With that being said, I want to tell you that Hap hazard studies will produce weak preaching, preaching that won't feed Gods' people, and this will hurt our ministry because we won't get very many return appointments in our sister churches.

When we make the announcement that we have been saved by the grace of God, people expect to see a different kind of life than we lived before, and they have that right. When we announce that we have been called to preach the gospel, the world both saved and lost puts you and I on a pedestal. We become a gazing stock and they will see our faults much quicker than anything else. If and when we commit an error, we place a stumbling block in the life of those who are lost. Protect your integrity; a good reputation that takes years to build can be destroyed in minutes.

If we will apply what this writer is telling us in the next thought, we can avoid most flaws that present themselves.

The writer of this Hebrew letter made this statement first of all that we should dismiss the principals of Christ; in other words we should begin to digest some stronger meats. This doesn't mean that we should

forget about our experience of salvation, but go beyond, and apply ourselves to deeper and sweeter teachings of the scriptures. It should always be our desire to pass on to something higher in the teachings of Gods' word.

To me, it's like finding a treasure chest full of the finest gold and silver, when I open the lid and look into the word of God, my heart is filled with joy because this is mine; all I want of it and there is plenty left.

We should always keep in mind our experience of salvation, but if we are going to feed the church, we must take them some strong meat. If we never advance beyond telling our experience, we'll never be able to feed Gods' sheep. I believe that is what the writer was telling us when he told us to go on to perfection. Please don't misunderstand me, we can never reach complete perfection in this body, but we can and must strive or work toward it.

There are grave dangers of remaining in the elementary stages of our ministry; we can and probably would get carried away with many false teachings. Such as falling from grace; works for salvation; three stages of grace, and the invisible church theory, just to mention a few. So we must leave the elementary stages of our Christian life; not forget them but move forward. If Satan can teach us one false doctrine while we are babes in the ministry, if we allow it to fester and become a sore, the remainder of our ministry can be effected by it.

It is of the greatest importance that we move forward to adulthood in the teachings of the scriptures. I believe that it's the purpose of this school and every lesson that is taught to advance all of us to a higher, and closer walk with Christ

Ever time we preach there should be some proof that we have moved closer to perfection in our studies. That proof will be there if we don't get caught up so much in the affairs of this world that it interferes with your ministry. There's time for ball games, golfing and etc. if we will keep our priorities where they should be.

Heb. 2:10 For it became him, for whom are all things, and by whom are all things, in bringing many sons to glory, to make the Captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings. God didn't tell us that this was all going to be a flower bed of ease. When The apostle Paul was called preach, God sent Ananias: Act 9:15 But the Lord said to him, Go, for he is a chosen vessel to me, to bear my name before the Gentiles, and kings, and the children of Israel.

Act 9:16 For I will show him how great things he must suffer for my name's sake. There is going to be sufferings in this way, but it will prepare us for the greater adult work of the Lord. The joys of the Lord will far outweigh the sufferings. When we suffer for the Lord, it will make us more aware of what to do and say in the work of the Lord.

Luk 9:22 Saying, The Son of man must suffer many things, and be rejected of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be slain, and be raised the third day. If Christ suffered for his teachings, we too will

suffer if we go on unto perfection. This is not a statement to detour us, but to encourage us to become the minister that God would be pleased with. God is pleased when we go on unto perfection.

If we as Gods' servants will go on onto perfection; when the trials come our way, we will find great joy in defending the truth. The sufferings will seem as nothing. Col 3:14 And above all these things put on charity, (I believe this charity will cloth us with humility) which is the bond of perfectness. (Without this charity there would be no cement to cause this bond of perfection) Col 3:15 And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful. Col 3:16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom.

We are exhorted to strive for manhood, and I do mean manhood; don't misunderstand me, I'm not putting our sisters down. I am talking to you and of course to myself.

The building that we are trying to build will never be completed if we as the builder lingers too long with the foundation. When the foundation is complete, we need to move forward to Christian maturity or to building our lives. Now please don't misunderstand, The building of our lives or going on unto perfection is not something for our flesh to glory in, but it's for the glory of God.

, Php 3:14 I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.

The idea is, that he had been called into the service of the Lord Jesus, with a view to the obtaining of an important object. The prize he was looking for was the crown of life and the joys' of Heaven. Doesn't this make us want strive for perfection; doesn't this make us want to please our Heavenly father?

These things that I am trying to give you is not a rebuke, but is intended with all the love that God will give me for helping us to grow in the eternal word of God. Some of you and maybe even myself in some ways, we might be referred to as infants or babes in Christ. It's not a disgrace to be called a babe in Christ if you have recently been called, but if you have been called for a number of years and still remain in your infancy, it's a shame.

There are four major doctrines mentioned in this second verse and each one of them is a doctrinal subject within themselves. These four doctrines if studied and comprehended will make you a valuable and, useful tool in Gods' hands. The doctrine of baptism, the doctrine of laying on of hands, the doctrine of the resurrection, and the doctrine of eternal judgment. These four subjects are such as we must not stumble at; they will find their way into every other subject you study and preach for the rest of your ministry. This is going on unto perfection.

In the past thirty three years men have made contact with me for appointments to preach where I was pastoring. I want to give these men every opportunity to exercise their calling. Some of these men brought the goods and they lifted my spirit, they went on unto perfection. Some of these men never applied themselves to study, they never went on to perfection, and they became an embarrassment to the God called ministry.

2Co 13:11 Finally, brethren, farewell. Be perfect, be of good comfort, be of one mind, live in peace; and the God of love and peace shall be with you. I believe the apostle Paul was saying as he wrote this

second letter to the Corinthians. (I am going to leave you) but be perfect, Become perfect by filling up what is lacking in your Christian character.

Brothers there's always room for us, bar none, to move closer to the Lord in preaching of the gospel. I said that to say this.

Our churches need preachers who can take the scriptures and preach a spirit filled message by the help of God.

Our churches need men who is willing to go to a small church as well as a larger one

Our churches need men who will take a church regardless of how much financial help the church can give.

Our churches need men who will go where God sends them. There's no place to put down permanent roots.

Our churches need men who can come under the imposition of hands. I'm repeating myself I know but don't mess your life up to where you can't be ordained.

If and when a church calls us to be their pastor, be a pastor and not just a name. Being the kind of pastor that pleases God means more than credentials hanging on the wall. Credentials is just a piece of paper witnessed by a presbytery and sometimes they come in handy, but a Holy Spirit placed pastor is a must if the church you are going to is to be successful.

With this being said, if we can come close to measuring up to God's standards, we can leave our children something very valuable.

Leaving our children silver and gold will help them very little, but if we as God called preachers will strive for perfection, our children can have a good sound Missionary Baptist Church. Some faithful children of God had this foresight several years ago and started this school. I'm sure they suffered some grief because it has the word school in its' title.

If is a little word but it carries a great impact. If we as the minister's of God don't move on to perfection, Satan will win the battle and our efforts would seem to be in vain.

My first year to attend the ministers school, there was about twenty five or thirty preachers in attendance and six teachers. Since then the school has grown to around one hundred and forty. These six teachers have all gone to meet their reward. The loss of these men are greatly missed. They all went on unto perfection. These men you see now standing before you will soon be gone including myself; you must go on unto perfection or take up the baton if you want your sons' to enjoy the pleasures of this school. Finish the race until Jesus comes to take his bride home and then you will hear him say (WELL DONE MY GOOD AND FAITHFUL SERVANT.) (Run and be determined to finish the race.)