

## LET US GO ON TO PERFECTION

As we survey the current condition of the Body of Christ, it is apparent how weak, immature and yet very religious Christians everywhere are. Across the board we see sin and defeat as the common denominator for the average believer rather than joy and victory. We must awaken us to the condition and responsibility we have before us as the people of God.

The scripture teaches us that Jesus is going to return for His bride, one without spot, wrinkle, or blemish, that is, perfect. How will the "bride" come into this state of perfection? By a sovereign, supernatural work of God's grace? Or, is it the responsibility of the "bride" herself? The truth lies somewhere in between. In order to go on to perfection and be found as the bride of Christ without spot, wrinkle or blemish, we must learn obedience and co-operation with the Holy Spirit and the Word of God.

Hebrews 6, verse 1, says, "Therefore leaving the principles of the doctrine of Christ, let us go on unto perfection, not laying again the foundation...". The New Living Translation says, "let us stop going over the basics of Christianity again and again." The Message Translation says, "let's stop finger-pointing, there's a grand work of art to do." So we can clearly see that the instruction is to leave the basics and go on to maturity.

The instruction to "not lay again" presupposes that something has already been laid. This reveals one of the largest travesties in the history of the body of Christ, that every believer would know and experience the "elementary" principles of the doctrine of Christ. Unfortunately, this is not the case in the church. The condition of the church in this hour is far below the standard presented Biblically. Every New Testament writer presented as a standard the maturity of the church. This vision was birthed by the Jesus Himself and passed along through discipleship to the apostles and then to others.

If a solid doctrinal foundation has not been firmly laid in your life, you cannot assume nor expect that you will go on to maturity. For a moment, let's examine what Hebrews considers to be the "foundation." The scripture in Hebrews 6:1-3, lists six fundamental components, which make up a good foundation. These components are repentance from dead works, faith toward God, the doctrine of baptisms, laying on of hands, resurrection of the dead, and eternal judgment. Many have learned the rhetoric of these fundamental doctrines, but the actual fruit being borne from their life shows something far less than victorious Christian living.

What is the answer? If we are to "go on to maturity", we must learn and implement these basic, fundamental doctrines of Christ. The harvest fields are white. The saints must be deployed in the work of the ministry more and more. Seek the Lord. Ask Him to show you how you are to respond to His admonition to "go on to perfection."