04 -- DIVISION -- HOLINESS COMMANDED -- (FEB. 17-26)

17. I am the Almighty God: walk before me and be thou perfect. -- Genesis 17:1.

Be glad, ye old folks! A ninety-nine year old "holiness man." No matter how old, if the Almighty God sanctifies and helps!

18. Thou shalt be perfect with the Lord the God. -- Deuteronomy 18:13.

Whether perfect with man or not. God sees perfection in motive, where man sees defect in speech and life. Man suspects imperfection where it is not moral nor religious nor spiritual but only natural infirmity which shall be done away in the resurrection.

19. Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect. -- Matthew 5:48.

"Therefore" refers us to the preceding context, which shows that this does not mean absolute perfection or perfection in natural divine attributes, but perfection in love, in good nature, in good tempers, in universal sympathy for all sorts and conditions of men.

20. Be perfect, be of good comfort, be of one mind, live in peace; and the God of love and peace shall be with you. -- II Corinthians 13:11.

Perfection brings all the rest in its train -- comfort, unity, peaceable living and the presence of the God of love and peace.

21. Let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing. -- James 1:4.

How complete the perfect work of patience -- "that ye may he perfect, entire, wanting nothing." These last three expressions are a trinity of complete descriptive words.

22. Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart and with all thy soul and with all thy mind and with all thy strength; this is the first commandment. -- Mark 12:30.

The first of all is love. God is love. Religion is love. Entire sanctification is perfect love. It is loving with all thy heart, soul, and strength. It is love unifying the whole human being. Perfect love to God is the very essence of the first commandment, without which there can be no second for unless there is perfect love to God there cannot be perfect love to man.

23. What doth the Lord require of thee, but to fear the Lord thy God, to walk in all his ways, and to love him, and to serve the Lord thy God with all thy heart and with all thy soul? -- Deuteronomy 10:12.

Throw the emphasis on "all," but also on "thy." Not somebody else's heart. Every man can love all he can -- even if he cannot love as much as somebody else. God will be satisfied with nothing less than our "all" -- all our fear, reverence, love, service and steady walk in his ways. He cannot require impossibilities therefore we can, ought, must, will and do fulfill all his requirements with our "all."

24. The end of the commandment is charity out of a pure heart and of a good conscience and of faith unfeigned. -- I Timothy 1:5

This is the divine order: (1) a good conscience, (2) faith unfeigned, (3) a pure heart, (4) the charity of the thirteenth chapter of First Corinthians -- the perfect love that perfectly fulfills the law.

25. On that day shall the priest make an atonement for you to cleanse you that ye maybe clean from all your sins before the Lord. -- Leviticus 16:30.

Cleansing from all sin is always the effect of atonement -- never the result of the works of the law, the works of the flesh, growth, gradualism or anything else except atonement.

26. Wash ye; make you clean; put away the evil of your doings from before mine eyes; cease to do evil. -- Isaiah 1:16.

A heart washed clean always precedes, prepares for and gives gracious ability to put away evil deeds and to cease to do evil.