

The Patio Pulpit For February 24, 2021 **“Perfected Aliens and the Blood of Christ”**

Take your Bibles and turn to the letter to the Hebrews and chapter 10, Hebrews chapter 10 and we're going to read one verse, v.14. Hebrews 10:14, ¹⁴ *For by one offering He has perfected for all time those who are sanctified. (Heb. 10:14 NAU).* That is one of the most amazing verses in all of Scripture. And it really means what it says. It may take us a few minutes to get to it this evening, but you will be so glad that we're working our way through numerous other Scriptures to get there. The mind of God is so far removed from our minds and God is absolutely holy and so far removed from we sinful and corrupt creatures, that it seems totally alien for Him to even suggest that we have been perfected for all time in any sense of the word. ¹⁴ *For by one offering He has perfected for all time those who are sanctified. (Heb. 10:14 NAU).*

Can you believe that the US has put a car-sized vehicle on the planet Mars, and it is already sending back photos of the planet's surface? How do they do that? How in the world, or how “out of this world” can a vehicle millions of miles from our planet send pictures back to Earth? And, “Surprise! It looks just like the surface of every other planet we have looked at, except it's kinda red. So far, no little green men.” The **car-size robotic explorer**, which launched in late July 2020, is equipped with seven scientific instruments to study the geology and climate of Mars. *The weather on Mars today is a low of 14 degrees and a high of around 160. Not bad. The rover touched down on the red planet using a similar sky-crane that lowered the Curiosity rover to the Martian surface in 2012. *The “sky-crane,” by the way, was attached to the spacecraft that took this trip to Mars. And it blows my mind to realize that the spacecraft had to hover over Mars in order to put the rover down in the very spot the folks seated millions of miles away wanted it. This rover is named “Perseverance” “Yes, it's curiosity that pulls us out there, but it's perseverance that does not let us give up,” Zurbuchen said. And what would really be cool now would be for one of the UFO's spotted recently to be caught and identified. I think scientists already know what's going on and it ain't little green men in flying

saucers. Maybe the occupants or the pilots who operate these UFO's remotely could answer all our questions.

I find the whole space exploration thing incredible. The minds behind this kind of stuff are pretty amazing. I just don't like the idea of our tax money, billions of dollars, being spent on scientific experiments that serve no other purpose than to attempt to find out how all that exists came to be, came to exist, i.e., since God didn't do it. I know that these scientists and our government say there's more to it than that, but those more-to-than-that things are like an after-thought to their higher purpose.

And speaking of absolutely mind-blowing events, let's talk about how God came from outer space, heaven, and became one of us that He might save us from ourselves and the devil. That's right, Jesus is an alien. ³¹ *"He who comes from above is above all, he who is of the earth is from the earth and speaks of the earth. He who comes from heaven is above all. (Jn. 3:31 NAU)*

But so are we. ⁶ *"But God spoke to this effect, that his DESCENDANTS WOULD BE ALIENS IN A FOREIGN LAND, AND THAT THEY WOULD BE ENSLAVED AND MISTREATED FOR FOUR HUNDRED YEARS. (Acts 7:6 NAU)* And that, of course, was talking about the Israelites 400-year slavery in Egypt. The people of God have always been aliens, so to speak.

And this from the apostle Peter,

1 Peter 1:1 Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, To those who reside as aliens, scattered throughout Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia, (and America) who are chosen (1 Pet. 1:1 NAU)

And Peter again,

¹¹ *Beloved, I urge you as aliens and strangers to abstain from fleshly lusts which wage war against the soul. (1 Pet. 2:11 NAU).* We are urged by Scripture to abstain from fleshly lusts because that isn't how aliens are to live, that's how the inhabitants of this world live. And that is a challenge for 21st century disciples of Christ. We are surrounded by a society and culture that thrives on fleshly lusts and greed that motivates most of our society to do what it does. The word of God urges

those who are in Christ to be different. ³ *But immorality or any impurity or greed must not even be named among you, as is proper among saints; (Eph. 5:3 NAU)* And we can do it through the power of the Holy Spirit who strengthens us and equips us for the battle that is life on this planet.

God's divine immigration policy and solution

I know you have seen the news reports showing the thousands of Latinos approaching our southern border determined to come to America by hook or crook with a President sitting in the White House who is ready to let them in, whether they're legal or illegal. They are already being labeled "aliens" with some professing to seek asylum and others a better life for them and their families. We should allow some of them in but certainly not all. Something must distinguish between the one's we allow in and the one's we must not allow in. Our nation can hold only so many immigrants at any given point in time. The kingdom of God, on the other hand, can handle all who come to it through faith in the One in charge of such matters. Read this,

¹³ *But now in Christ Jesus you who formerly were far off have been brought near **by the blood of Christ.** (Eph. 2:13 NAU)...*

¹⁹ *So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints, and are of God's household,*

²⁰ *having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus Himself being the corner stone, (Eph. 2:19-20 NAU)*

We are no longer aliens to God. We are no longer strangers to the promises and covenants of God but we're members of His household. And our real home is in heaven even now, at this very moment. ²⁰ *For our citizenship is in heaven, from which also we eagerly wait for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ; (Phil. 3:20 NAU)*

I just thought of this. Another name for aliens in our context is "saints." We are aliens in this world, but we are no longer alienated from God. We are sainted aliens.

And how did this happen?

The reconciling immigrating power of the blood of Christ

¹³ *But now in Christ Jesus you who formerly were far off **have been brought near by the blood of Christ.** (Eph. 2:13 NAU)*

And just what does that mean, we are brought near by the blood of Christ? It means that the sins that once separated us from God have been washed away by the blood of Christ. It means that by the substitutionary atonement of Christ we have been reconciled to our Creator. It means that God will no longer see us as sinners but as His children, washed, sanctified and justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Holy Spirit. Jesus Christ is our Passover. It was His blood that was applied to the doorposts of our hearts and we have been spared God's wrath by that blood. And that's what the Biblical word "propitiation" means. God's wrath is satisfied by the sacrifice of His Son.

¹⁴ *For by one offering He has perfected for all time those who are sanctified. (Heb. 10:14 NAU)*

Yes, you read that correctly, *For by one offering He has perfected for all time those who are sanctified.* I did my work in the Greek text and that is precisely what it says, *For by one offering He has perfected for all time those who are sanctified.*

That must've been some offering. And it was. It is the only offering that could possibly do what God wanted to do for His rebellious, sinful, wicked, ungodly creatures. No one can get into the kingdom of God who is less than perfect. And the fact that any get into the kingdom is absolutely amazing.

The Greek word translated "perfected" comes from the very same word used by Jesus from the cross when He cried out, "It is finished." It is completed. It is perfected. **τελειόω** (1) from the standpoint of complete preparation, bringing something to its goal *complete, fulfill, accomplish, make perfect* (HE 7.19; 10.14). My inner man, your inner man is now perfect in the true sense of the word. Not so our outer man. He will remain corrupt and corruptible until our passing or the rapture. But our born of the Spirit inner man is genuinely perfected. **Colossians 2:10** *and in Him you have been made complete, and He is the head over*

all rule and authority; (Col. 2:10). The word “complete” is not the same Greek word that’s in our text, but it is a synonym. And it says the same thing as perfected. For by one offering He has perfected for all time those who are sanctified. “...and in Him you have been made complete.”

You probably remember the once-for-all verses we went over recently, well, that’s what we have in these verses. “For by one offering.” That had to have been almost impossible for the Jews to accept after knowing how many thousands upon thousands of animals were sacrificed according to the law. And to try to imagine accomplishing a task so great as to make people perfect for all time would have been even more impossible to believe. But that is precisely what the author was telling them was fact.

Beloved, I close with this. You and I have been perfected for all time by that one singular offering of Christ on our behalf. That’s it. That’s what God sees. Remember, it’s all about Jesus in the eyes of our Father. And now that we’re in Jesus, it’s all about us, too. And we can no more be separated from Jesus than He can be separated from His Father.

In Jesus’ name. Amen.