

HFG Questions for
“Radical Righteousness”
(Matthew 5:48)

Read Matthew 5:48.

1. What does the Greek word *teleios* (τέλειος) literally mean? Does it have a secondary meaning? Is there any disparity in how the major Bible versions translate it in this verse?

2. What are some reasons for believing that *teleios* is to be understood in this verse as “perfect”?

3. How do the following verses showcase the perfection of God the Father? (Deut. 32:4; Psa. 18:30; Psa. 19:7; Heb. 5:9)

4. Some movements have taught that believers can reach a point of sinless perfection in this lifetime. Is that what Matthew 5:48 is teaching? How do you know? What do passages like these (Rom. 7:15-20, Gal. 5:17; Phil. 3:12; James 3:2; 1 John 1:8-10) indicate?

5. Is God’s standard of holy perfection for entering/being in His presence consistent across the pages of Scripture? What passages can you cite to support your answer?

6. If perfection is required, but perfection cannot be attained, what is the answer for us? (See Rom. 6:23; 10:3-4)

7. Explain in your own words the “great exchange” of 2 Corinthians 5:21.

8. What did Christ’s death accomplish for us, according to Hebrews 10:10-14?

9. How should you praise God in light of so great a salvation?
