



Prayer Requests:

"Pray for one another"

- James 5:16 -

- Clara Clark - dealing with some minor health issues; recently admitted to a nursing home
- Diane Cote - diagnosed with kidney disease
- Randy Cote - (Paul & Diane's son) - struggling with the demands and burdens of life
- Paul & Sandy Gagnon - Paul: now residing at Greenwood Center in Sanford and doing well; Sandy: recently diagnosed with a fistula; pray for strength & healing for her & Paul
- Janice Grabowski - recovering from a blocked bile duct and doing better; thanks everyone for their prayers during this stressful time
- Nate & Rebecca Hios - pray for the Kittery work
- Jim & Pat Miller - leg & back problems
- David Murphy (Sandy's brother) - inoperable prostate cancer
- George & Caren Nick - ongoing family struggles
- Ernie Perry - dealing with COPD issues
- Jerry Prestridge - serving in Afghanistan
- Kathy Rader - prayers for her and her mom
- Robert (Shirley's Dad) - serious heart condition; problems with excessive fluid retention
- Wayne Sampson - corrective surgery for spinal stenosis on Feb 13th was successful and he is now in the process of healing; also suffering from ongoing anxiety attacks
- Terry & Betty Schmidt - grieving the loss of Terry's Dad, Jim, who died of cancer recently; prayers of thanks for safe travel as they drove to & from PA to attend the funeral
- Karlee Wells - various health issues; dealing with PTSD, TBI, severe migraines and chronic pain; also legal issues for health compensation
- Kim Willey - struggling with bi-polar disorder
- Blake Williams - personal & family struggles
- Peter Wolenty - ongoing heart problems
- Please pray for those not with us today

"Pray without ceasing." — 1 Thess 5:17

You Shall Be Perfect

By Gene Taylor

"Therefore you shall be perfect just as your Father in heaven is perfect" (Matt. 5:48). At first glance, this is a difficult passage. It seems to be calling us to do or be what seems impossible. "Nobody is perfect," is what we say.

It is true that all responsible people commit sin. Romans 3:23 states that all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God. That is why Jesus died for all men to give them the opportunity to have their sin removed (Heb. 2:9; 2 Cor. 5:14). It is also why the gospel needs to be preached "to every creature" (Mark 16:16). Even after one obeys the gospel, he still commits sin and needs forgiveness (1 John 1:7-10).

If Matthew 5:48 were telling us that we must live sinless perfect lives or that we must be as perfect as God, then we obviously have some real problems. When we seek to determine the meaning of any Biblical text, especially one that is difficult to understand, we must remember, when it comes to Scripture, whatever God's word says on any subject is right (Ps. 119:128). It is also possible to twist or misuse the Scriptures (2 Pet. 3:15-16).

In the study of the difficult text before us, we must answer three questions. First: Can the word "perfect" have several meanings in the Bible? Second: What is the context of this verse? Third: Are there other verses in the Bible which will help us understand this one?

The word "perfect," in the Bible, can and does mean "complete" or "finished." Jesus was made "perfect" through suffering (Heb. 2:10; 5:8-9). He completed or fulfilled God's plan for Him as our Savior by suffering for us. "Perfect" can also have the meaning of "mature" or "grown up." In Philippians 3:15, the apostle Paul speaks to "as many as be perfect" (KJV). The NKJV translates this phrase "as many as are mature."

Jesus contrasts His teaching with that of the Old Law (Matt. 5:38-39). He shows us what our attitude is to be toward those who want to make life

hard for us by forcing us or hatefully treating us (Matt. 5:40-44). He teaches us to love our "enemies" (Matt. 5:44), not an easy thing to do. We are to do this so "that you may be sons of your Father in heaven" (Matt. 5:45a). God acts with concern and love for all men. If we act like our heavenly Father, we will act with positive good will toward evil and good men alike. If we only love those who love us but do not love our enemies, we are really no better than evil men for even evil people are capable of loving those who love them (Matt. 5:46).

When Jesus said, "Be perfect, as your Father in heaven is perfect" (Matt. 5:48), He was saying, "Let your love be complete as God's love." God loves all people, even evil ones. This is how we can be as "perfect" as God. Our love for our fellow-man needs to grow and mature -- including loving our enemies. If we do not love our enemies, we are not acting as sons of God.

We must heed the command of our Savior given in Matthew 5:48 to "be perfect" just as our heavenly Father is perfect. We must be careful, though, not to apply this command to areas in which Jesus never intended for it to be applied.



Our Deepest Sympathy

*Our sincerest condolences are extended to **Terry & Betty** and family as they mourn the passing of Terry's father, Jim, who succumbed to cancer recently. May God's steadfast presence and tender compassion provide strength and comfort to these dear ones during this difficult time.*

☺ Welcome Visitors! ☺

We are glad you have come to worship with us today. We want you to know that you are welcome. Please don't hesitate to ask if you have questions or if we can help you in any way. Please fill out a visitor's card before you depart.



Ladies' Corner

Ladies' Ministry Meeting: Today, after services

Nursing Home Visit: Tuesday, March 21st, Kennebunk Nursing Home at 9:30 followed by lunch and fellowship at *Perfectos* in Kennebunk.

Lakes Region Church of Christ Ladies Day: April 8th from 9:30AM to 1:00PM (lunch is provided). Speaker: Kathy Pollard. Topic: Making the Most of My Time for God" (Psalm 90:12).

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- **Men's Ministry Meeting:** Today, after services
- **Congregational Meeting:** Sunday, March 26th, after services



April Birthdays

2nd - Justin Kennedy



Happy Anniversary:

Keith & Karlee — April 20th

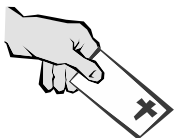
Rod & Shirley — April 28th

BULLETIN ITEMS: If you have a prayer request or an announcement for the bulletin, please contact Terry Schmidt at 284-9191 or e-mail at tls654b@gwi.net



SNACKS!

March 19: Paula
March 26: Terry K



Numbers for 3/12/17

Attendance - 19
Contribution - \$307.

Order of Worship

March 19, 2017

"But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him. God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth."

- Jesus — John 4:23-24 -

Song Leader: *Paul Cote*

Song

Opening Prayer: *Erik Grabowski*

Song

Scripture Reading: *George Nick*

Song

The Lord's Supper:
Terry Schmidt & Ernie Perry

Contribution

Song

Sermon: *George Nick*

Song

Announcements & Closing Prayer:
Jason Kennedy

Alternate/fill-in: *Wayne Sampson*

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Lord's Supper Prep: *Terry Kennedy*

## Southern Maine Church of Christ

159 Alfred Road, P.O. Box 344  
West Kennebunk, ME 04094



*We love Him, because  
He first loved us.  
- 1 John 4:19 -*

**March 19, 2017**

## Sunday Assembly Times:

9:30 am — Bible Class  
10:30 am — Worship  
6:00 — Bible Study

## Wednesday Assembly:

7:00 — Bible Study

Phone: 207-229-4174

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