

Best Prediction of the Future

Tomorrow will be just like today

The safety of low expectations

"At that time I will search Jerusalem with lamps and punish **those who are complacent**, who are like wine left on its dregs, who think, '**The Lord will do nothing, either good or bad.**'" *Zephaniah 1:12*

1

Transformation Romans 12:1-2

ref.ly/Ro2;niv



2

Romans 12:1-2

Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters,
in view of God's mercy,
 to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice,
 holy and pleasing to God—
 this is your true and proper worship.
² Do not conform to the pattern of this world,
 but be transformed by the renewing of your mind.
 Then you will be able to test and approve
 what God's will is
 —his good, pleasing and perfect will.

3

God's Mercy in Romans

Salvation "does not, therefore, depend on human desire or effort, **but on God's mercy.**" *Romans 9:16*
 "for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and **all are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus.**" *Romans 3:23-24*

"Therefore, **there is now no condemnation** for those who are in Christ Jesus, because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit who gives life has **set you free** from the law of sin and death."

Romans 8:1-2

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Big Idea

God calls all who are saved
to pursue being fully transformed

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Something is
very wrong!

Buying a house
includes the
intention to
make it better

Letting it decay
is nonsense



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God's purpose:

- Rescue
- "Glorify" = share in God's nature



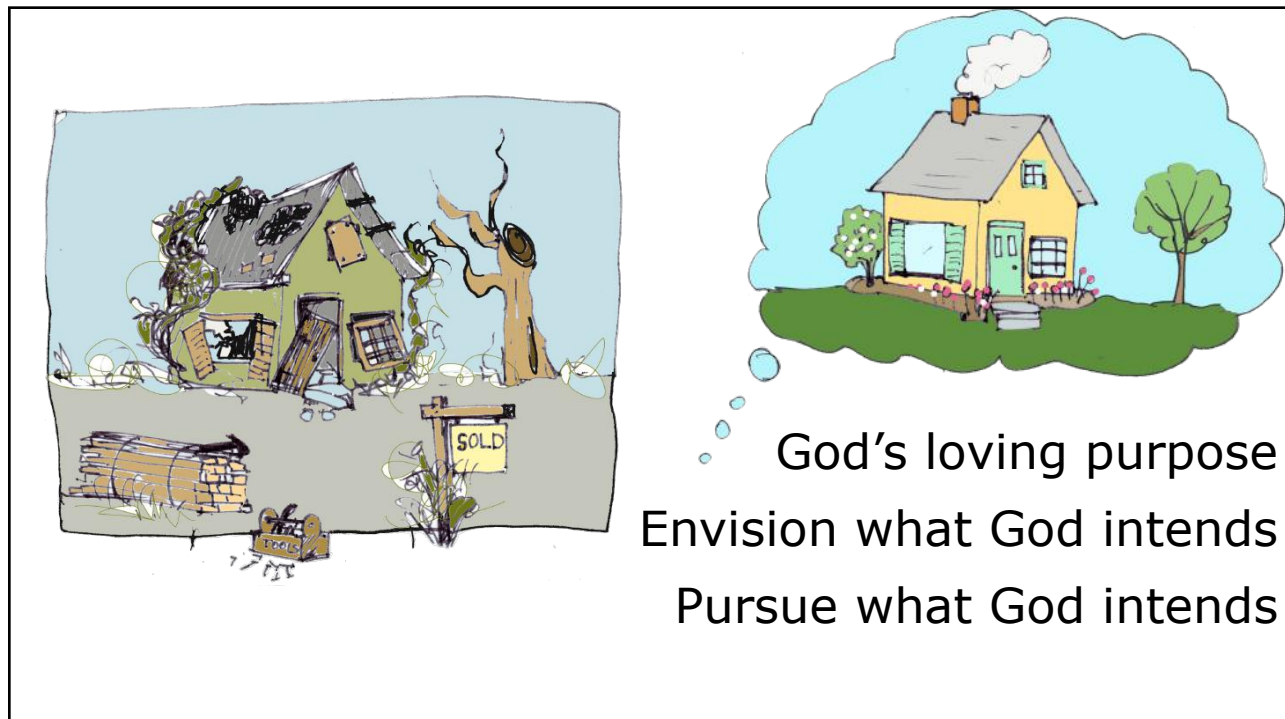
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"For those God foreknew **he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son**, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters."

Romans 8:29



15



16

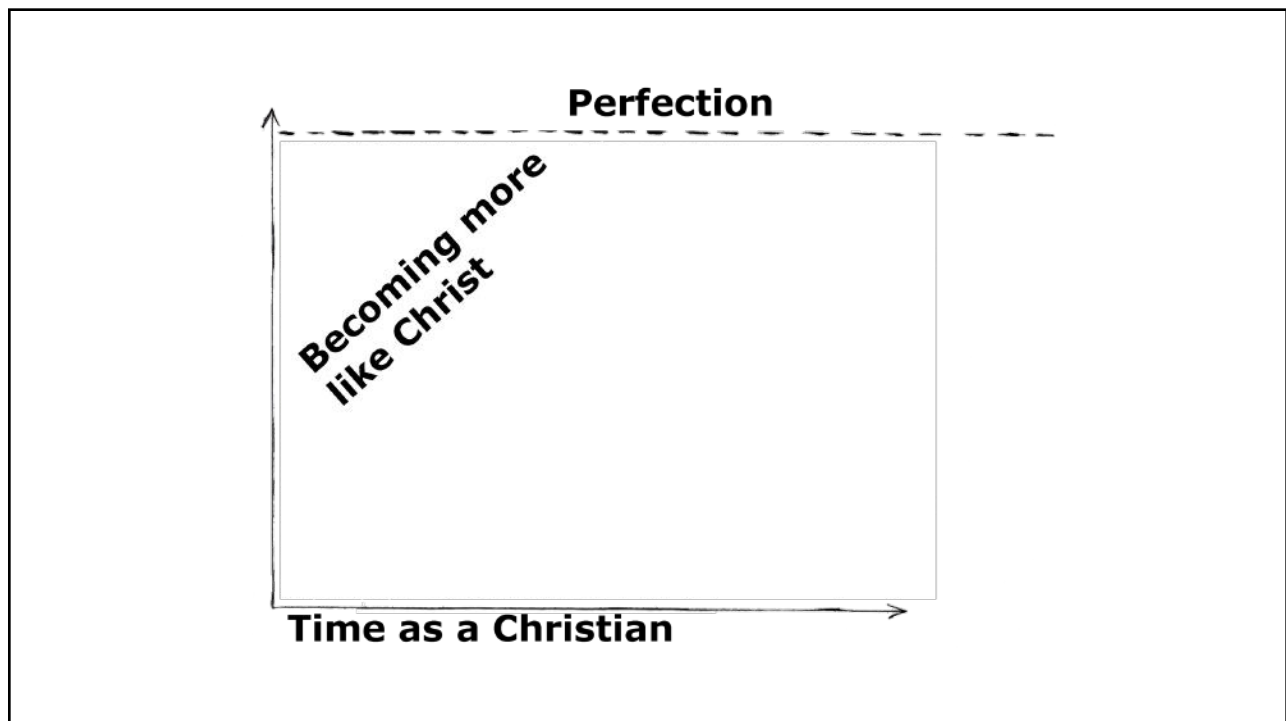
A very real danger

"In fact, though **by this time you ought to be teachers**, you need someone to teach you the elementary truths of God's word all over again. You need milk, not solid food!" *Hebrews 5:12*

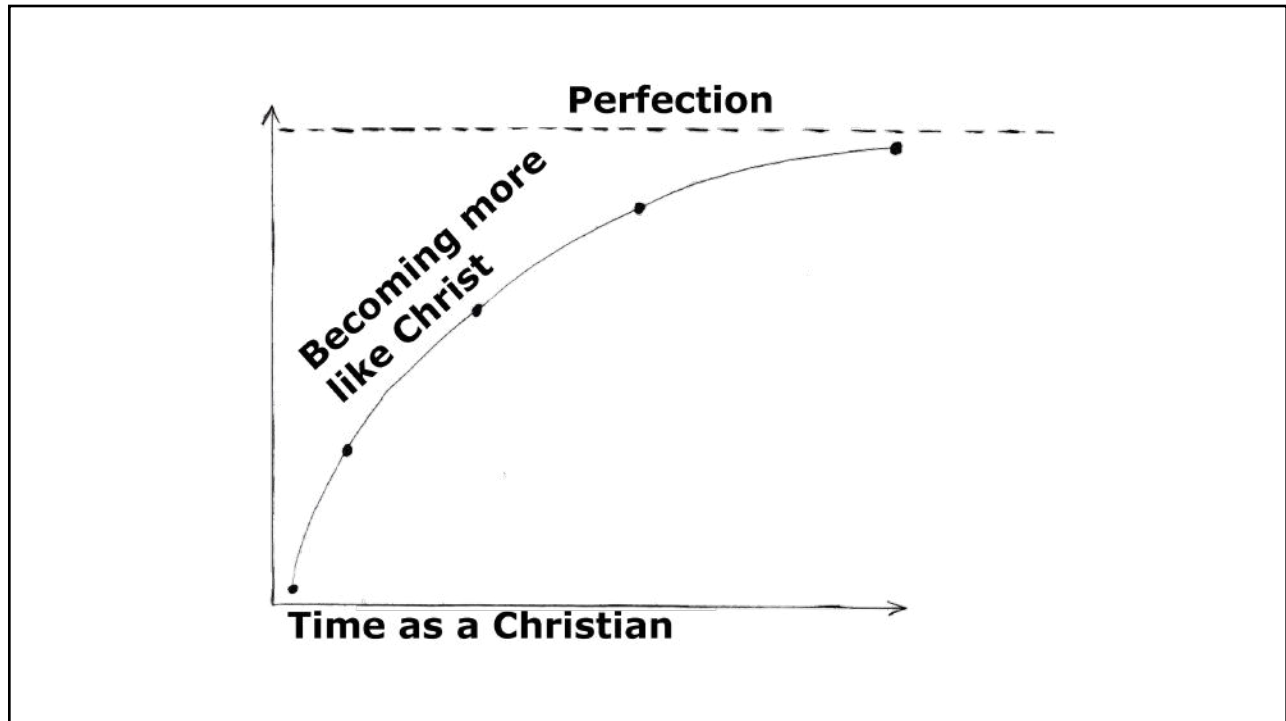
"Brothers and sisters, I could not address you as people who live by the Spirit but as **people who are still worldly—mere infants in Christ.**" *1 Cor. 3:1*

"You say, 'I am rich; I have acquired wealth and do not need a thing.' But **you do not realize that you are wretched, pitiful, poor, blind and naked.**" *Revelation 3:17*

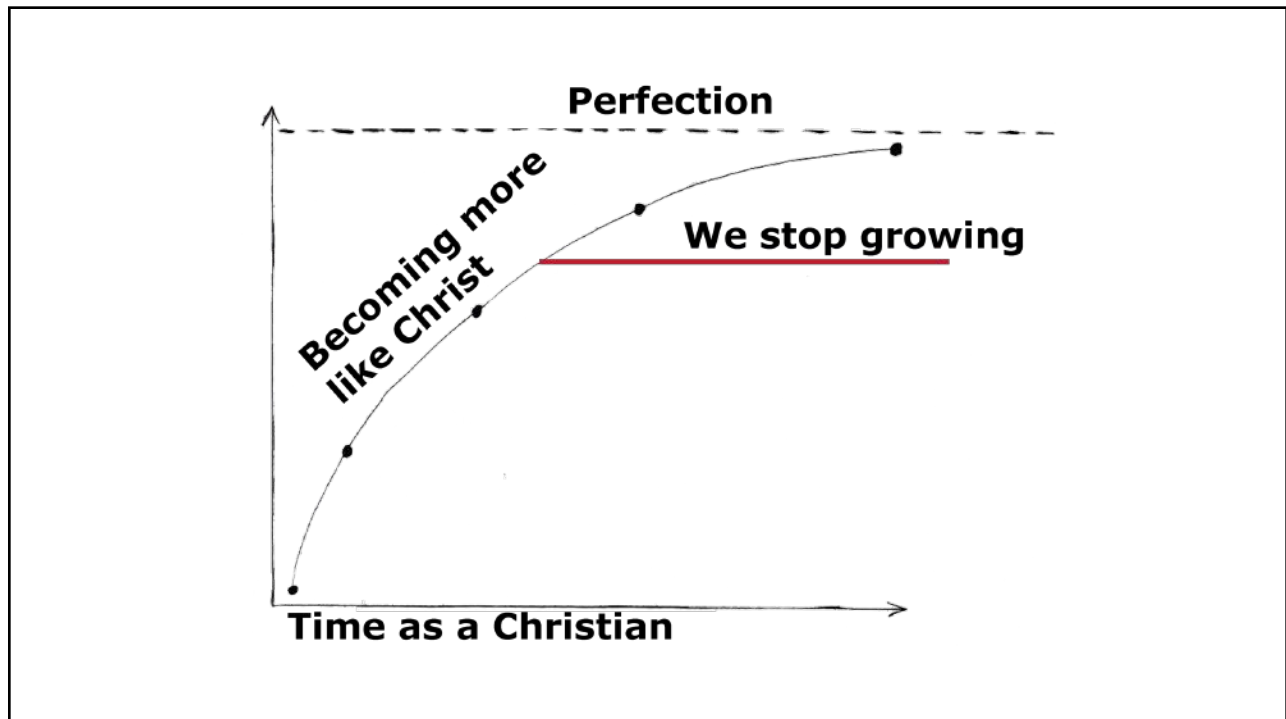
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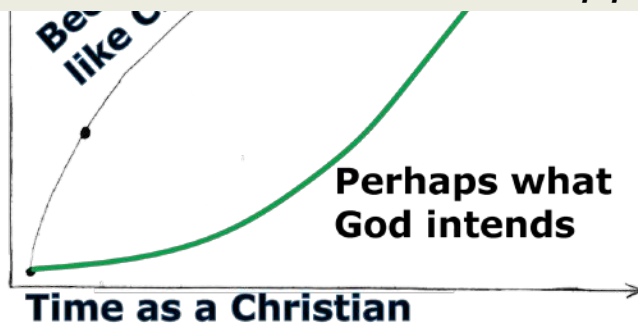


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"Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already arrived at my goal, but **I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me.** ... I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me **heavenward in Christ Jesus.**" *Philippians 3:12, 14*



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Steps in the Journey of Transformation

Step	Head	Heart	Hands
1	I don't know what the good is		
2	I know	I don't want it	
3	I know	I want to want it	
4	I know	I want it	I can't do it
5	I know	I want it	Kind of sometimes
6	I know	I want it	It is automatic

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CMC Core Value #6

"We are committed to building a community that practices superabounding grace while calling our people to complete obedience to Christ."

Superabounding grace

- In view of God's mercies

Complete obedience to Jesus

- Whole being as a living sacrifice
- Be transformed by the renewing of your mind

Difference between tolerance and patience

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Big Idea

God calls all who are saved
to pursue being fully transformed

Through him we received grace and apostleship
to call all the Gentiles to
the obedience that comes from faith
for his name's sake.

Romans 1:5

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Application

1) Be honest with God

- Where is growth still needed?
- Am I willing to face MY shortcomings?
- Do I even want to grow?
- **It's not like He doesn't know!**
- "I'm not ready to talk with you about _____.
But I will try to accept help. In mercy."

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Application

- 1) Be honest with God
- 2) Pursue and expect transformation, with patience and perseverance
 - This takes faith!
 - With God, all things are possible
 - "Through [his own glory and goodness] he has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them **you may participate in the divine nature**"

2 Peter 1:4

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Application

- 1) Be honest with God
- 2) Pursue and expect transformation, with patience and perseverance
- 3) Take an honest look at every part of your life

Money/treasures	Time	Politics / Justice
Sexuality & gender	Honor / praise of people	
Food / Substances / Adrenaline	Pride	
Power / Control / Submission	Other	

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Note about transformation

Path passive and active

- A passive verb: something God must do
- A command: something we must pursue
- Use all the expressions of Christianity

Bible study	Fellowship	"Common grace"
Meditation	Worship	
Prayer	Service	

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Big Idea

God calls all who are saved
to pursue **being fully transformed**

How is your journey of transformation?

- Be honest with God
- Pursue transformation
- In every part of life
- Ask God: what is the work for this season?

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