

PERFECT GAME

Scripture Reading: Read Hebrews 10

In bowling, it's twelve strikes in a row. A 300 game. In baseball, its twenty-seven up and twenty-seven down. No hits, walks or batters hit with a pitch. Only 23 perfect games in the history of Major League Baseball. Perfect games are hard to come by and the accolades that follow are well-deserved. For a brief moment, the athlete is perfect.

The vast majority of us will never rise to that level of perfection. Oh, we may enjoy bowling and we may love playing ball, but we're just not that good. However, what would you say if I told you that you are perfect, at least spiritually? You would probably object that you fail far too often to be perfect. You, no doubt, would question my sanity and wonder what I was thinking. But, let me ask you a couple of questions. Are you a Christian? Have you trusted Christ for salvation? If so, then look at what God's Word says to you in verse 14 of today's chapter reading: *"Because by one sacrifice he has made perfect forever those who are being made holy."*

How can we be considered perfect? It's important to understand the context. Hebrews is contrasting the Old Covenant with the New and showing us how much better the New is. Under the Old, folks were required to bring sacrifices over and over but they were never enough to deal with the problem of sin. It's not that the Old was evil or sinful. It just wasn't sufficient to do what needed to be done. They couldn't remove sin. They couldn't cleanse the conscience. At best, they could produce an outward cleansing as Hebrews 9:13 points out: *"The blood of goats and bulls and the ashes of a heifer sprinkled on those who are ceremonially unclean sanctify them so that they are outwardly clean."* We needed something better, something deeper. We needed what only the New could bring: a better revelation, a better high priest, and a better sacrifice. We needed the once-for-all sacrifice of the unblemished Lamb of God. His sacrifice was enough to pay the price for our sins. It was enough to remove the stain of sin. It was more than sufficient to cleanse our conscience from acts of death. It does not need to be repeated. The work at the cross will never be revoked and the blood will never lose its power. That's why the one sacrifice can make perfect forever. In other words, Christ's perfect game allows the Father to call you righteous, justified, and perfect in his Son.

In light of this new standing and calling, we are called to walk in holiness through the power of God's Holy Spirit. The author of Hebrews gives us some practical suggestions on what it means later on in chapter 10. *"Since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus...let us draw near to God with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith...Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful. And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another--and all the more as you see the Day approaching."*

Action Step & Prayer Focus: What would change for you if you lived in light of Hebrews 10:14 instead of trying continually to bowl or throw a perfect game spiritually? Ask the Lord to drive home the truths of this chapter on your heart.

Take-a-way: *The only path to perfection is through Christ's perfect game.*