



The Saints in Need of Perfecting

Ephesians 4:1-12

“For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ” (Eph. 4:12). God has given us gifted men, including pastor-teachers (Eph. 4:11) for the purpose of **perfecting** God’s people. The word “perfecting” is often translated “equipping.” God’s saints must be

equipped so that they may serve the Lord effectively. God’s Word, faithfully ministered, equips us with all that we need to live for Christ in this sinful, Satanic world. God has equipped us with every necessary piece of armor for the battles we face (Eph. 6:10-17).

The word “perfecting” is used of mending nets: “He saw James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother, who also were in the ship mending [perfecting] their nets” (Mark 1:19). Fishing nets with holes in them are quite counter-productive! Why do we assemble together on the Lord’s Day and at other times? We come because we need to be mended. We come broken, with many things in our lives that need to be fixed. We are poor and needy. Most of us could wear a sign around our neck, “**In need of repair.**” We are unprofitable servants, in many respects, and we need help. God’s Word, ministered by faithful men, is able to mend our broken lives and make us useful vessels, fit for the Master’s use.

This word “perfecting” was also a technical term in medicine for “setting a bone.” For example, a broken leg needs to be set properly, so that it may be useful and functional once again. In application, we are broken specimens of humanity and have made a mess out of our lives. Yet, God is able set things right so that we are useful and able to walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing. May God’s Word do it’s healing and restorative work in us! May the Lord **perfect that which is lacking in our faith** (1 Thess. 3:10).

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