The Christian’s Imperfections
Jas. 3:2

Introduction:
A. Sinless perfection of Christians is not a Bible doctrine (Jas. 3:2; 1 Jno. 1:8-10).
B. Relative perfection of Christians is a Bible doctrine.
   1. “Perfect” is sometimes relative (Heb. 9:11; Acts 18:26; 24:22) – “more” shows degrees.
   2. “Perfect” is often limited to context (Matt. 5:48; 19:21; Phil. 3:12, 15; Jas. 2:22)
      a. “Perfection” by supplying missing part or element without regard to flawless quality of part.
      b. Hence, “complete”, “full grown,” “mature,” etc.
C. Acceptance of our own imperfections should produce four important results in our lives.

Discussion:
I. Humility under God
A. The more we accept imperfections, the more humble we become before God.
   1. We will give God credit for spiritual good (1 Cor. 1:29-31; 4:7).
   2. We are saved by and stand in the power of God, not own perfection (1 Cor. 15:1; 1 Jno. 1:7)
   3. Paul gave God credit for his salvation and work (1 Cor. 3:5-7; 15:9, 10)
B. The more we accept imperfections, the more submissive we become to God’s will (Jas. 4:6,7)
   1. In order to be saved.
   2. In order to stay saved.
C. The more we accept imperfections, the more successful we become in correcting others. (Gal. 6:1)

II. Trust in God
A. We must trust in God for completeness, not ourselves (Col. 2:9, 10).
B. We must trust in God to be able to stand in “that day.” (2 Tim. 1:8-12) – still must do our part (v. 13).
C. We must trust in God for help in time of need (Heb. 4:16).

III. Improvement in Life
A. Recognition of imperfections should spur a greater effort toward perfection (Phil. 3:12-15)
   1. Will not be condemned for not reaching absolute perfection in this life.
   2. Will be condemned for not going toward perfection (Heb. 6:1-6)
B. Recognition of imperfections makes the command to grow ever-relevant (2 Pet. 3:18).

IV. Determination to Overcome
A. “Nobody is perfect” is no license for permissiveness (Rom. 6:1, 16; 1 John 2:1)
B. “Nobody is perfect” is not reason to drop our guard against sin.
   1. Paul recognized this (1 Cor. 9:27).
   2. We either struggle to overcome, our sin will overcome us. (Heb. 3:13)
C. “Nobody is perfect” is not reason to hold on to confessed sin (1 John 1:9).

Conclusion:
A. Imperfection is neither reason for apathy or despair – fight imperfections – trust in God.