

**You Must Be
Perfect**

Matthew 5:48

- text



- Matthew 19:16-24: And behold, a man came up to him, saying, “Teacher, what good deed must I do to have eternal life?” And he said to him, “Why do you ask me about what is good? There is only one who is good. If you would enter life, keep the commandments.”



- He said to him, “Which ones?” And Jesus said, “You shall not murder, You shall not commit adultery, You shall not steal, You shall not bear false witness, Honor your father and mother, and, You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” The young man said to him, “All these I have kept. What do I still lack?”



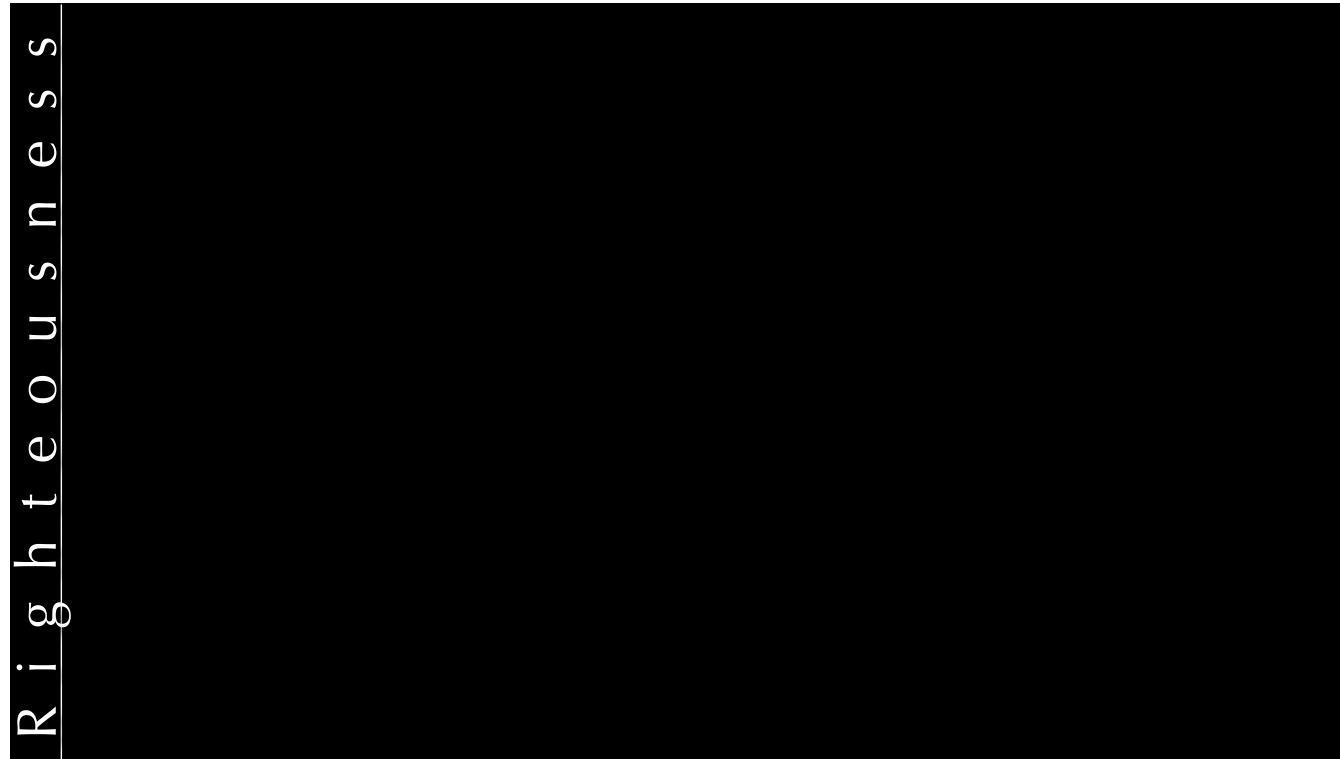
- Jesus said to him, “If you would be perfect, go, sell what you possess and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me.” When the young man heard this he went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions.



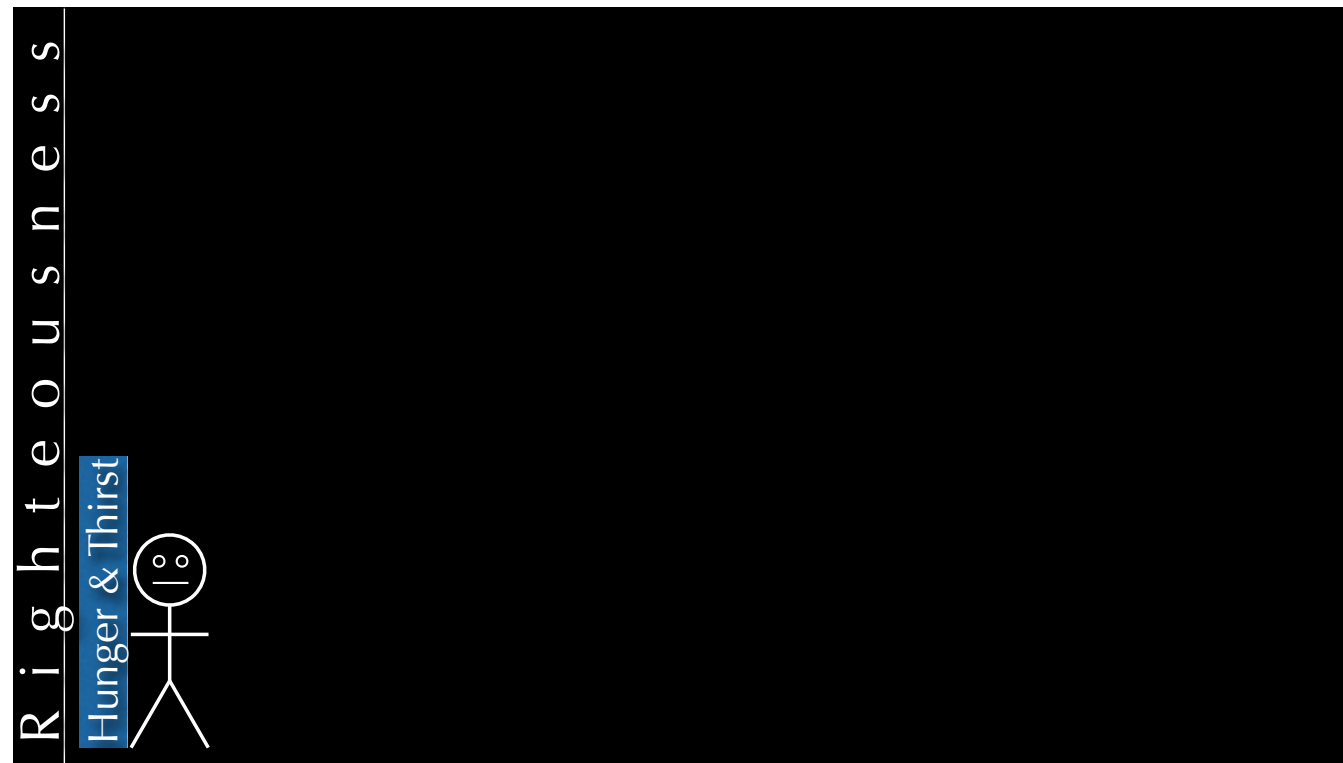
- Was this young man's problem obedience to the law? He avers that he has kept the law... and yet still lacked!
 - In Mark 10:21 "Jesus looking at him, loved him"



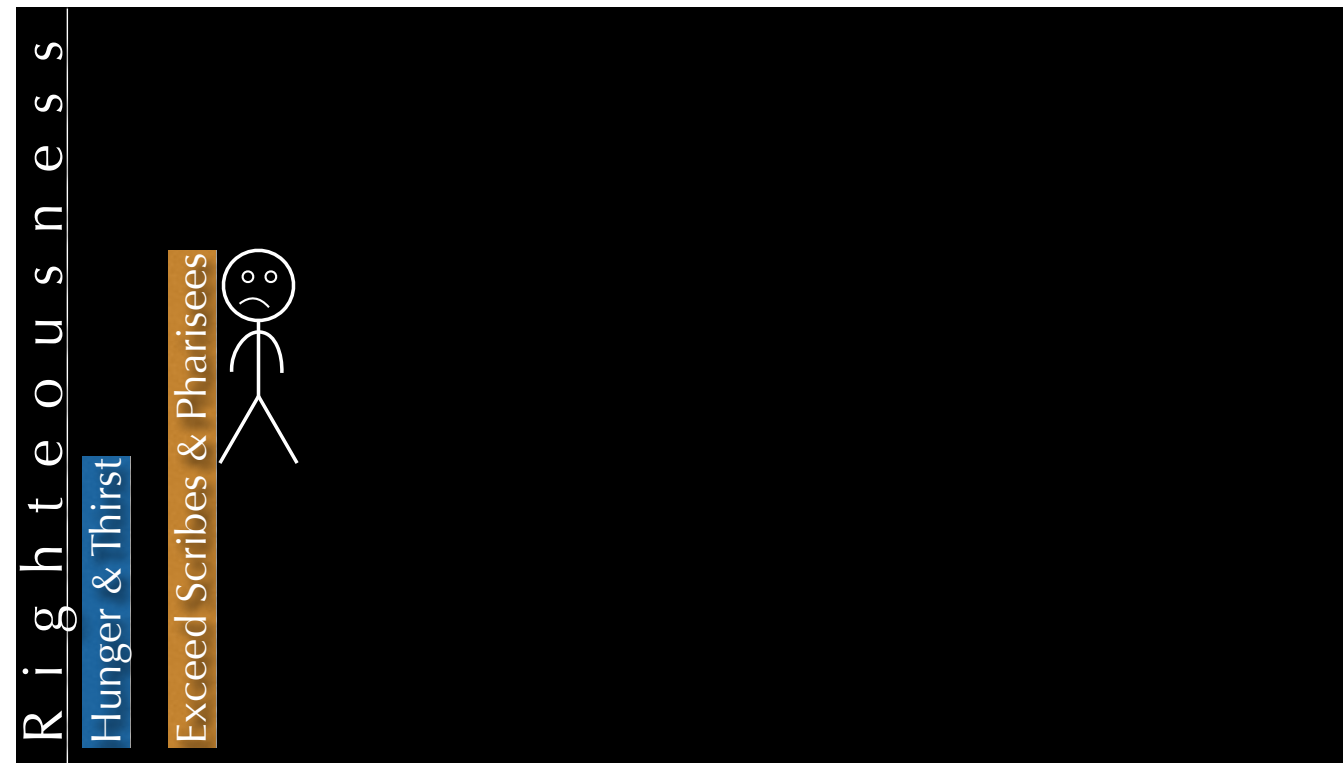
- You lack one thing...
 - It wasn't about obedience (perfect law keeping).
 - He lacked a heart that was completely given to God, holding tight to his riches (on earth) instead of treasure in heaven.
 - More, he lacked the Character to God. He thought it was all about DOING, but ultimately, it's about BEING.



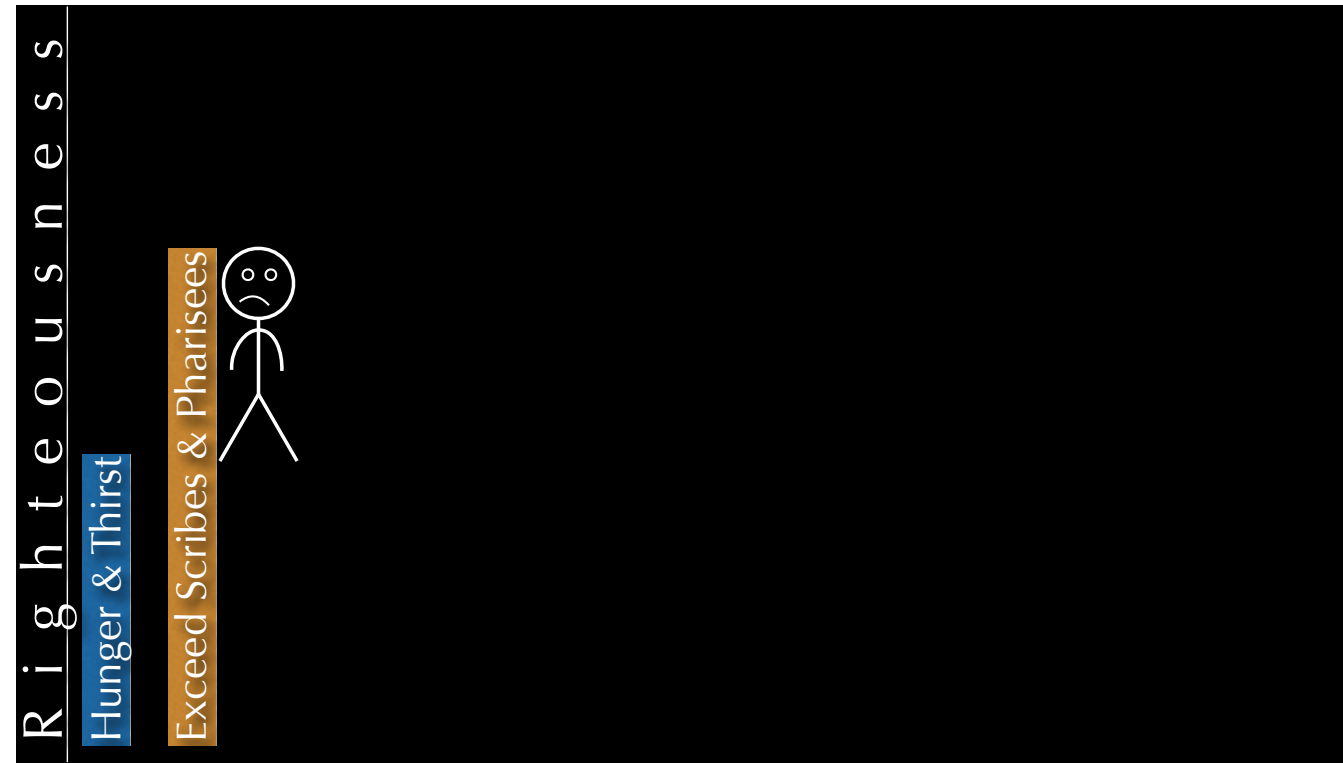
- Jesus begins ministry teaching about the Kingdom of Heaven
 - Matthew 4:17: From that time Jesus began to preach, saying, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.”
- Sermon on the Mount: helps us understand what it means to be citizens in the kingdom of heaven: righteousness
 - Beatitudes: Character of Citizen



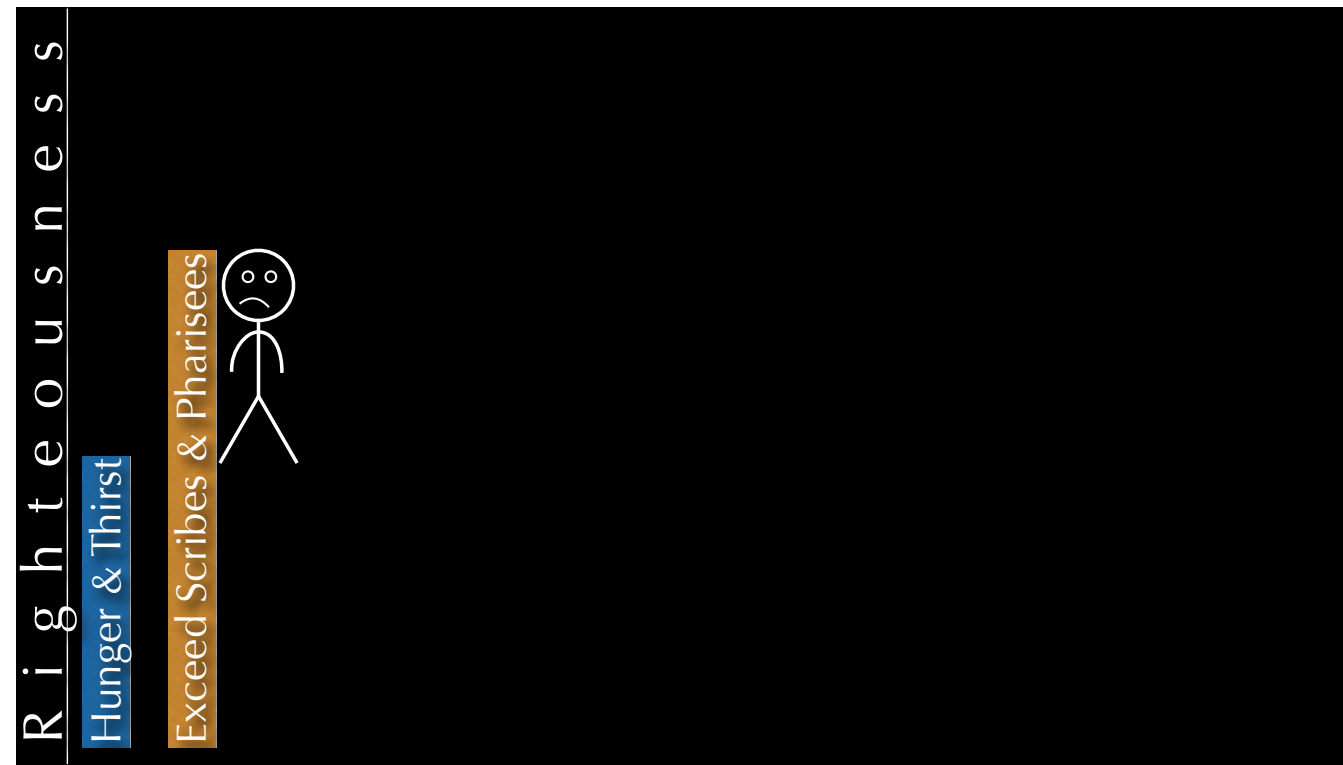
- Matthew 5:6: “Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.”
- Our Father approves of those who hunger and thirst for righteousness.
- Which, for most of us, makes us question about whether we really hunger and thirst for righteousness.
 - So it’s a little intimidating.



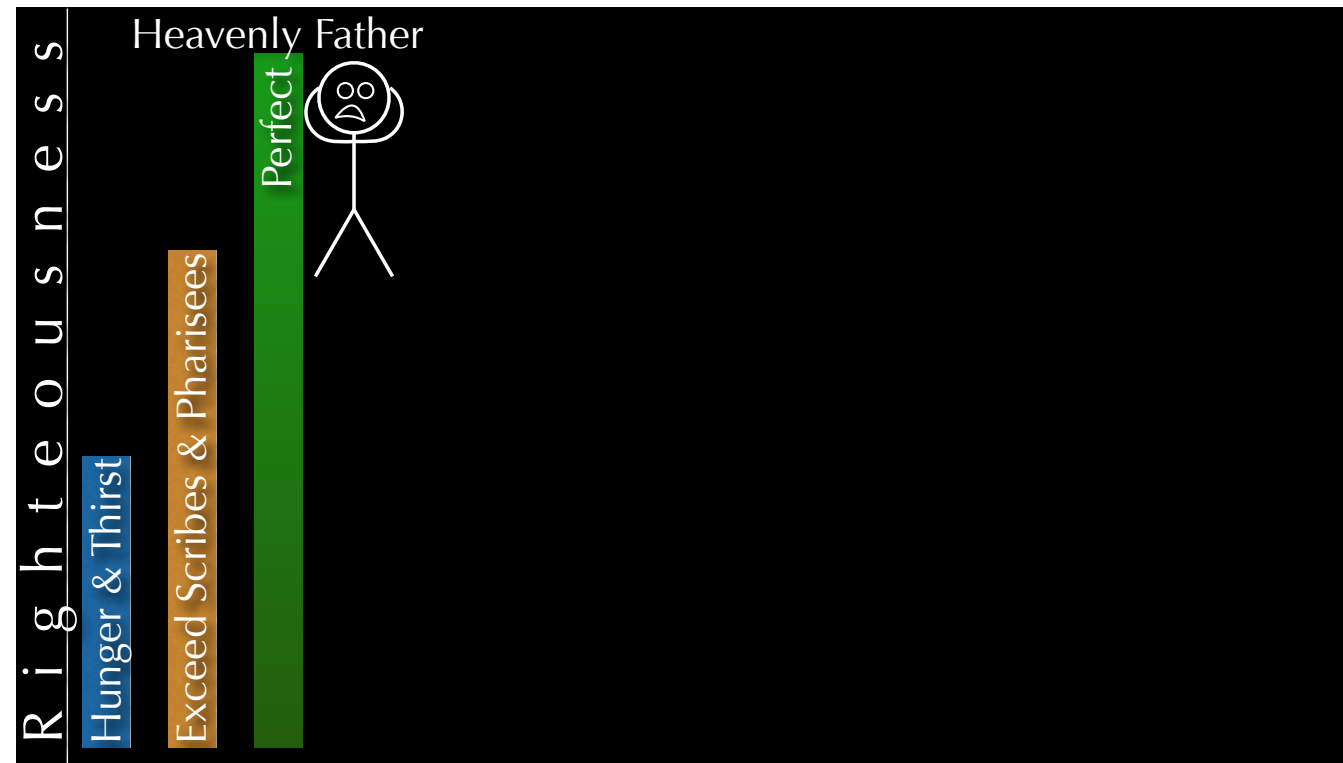
- Matthew 5:20 (ESV) 20 For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.
- Righteousness exceeds Scribes and Pharisees
 - A strong, shocking statement to most Jews
 - Highly respected for their devotion to being righteous
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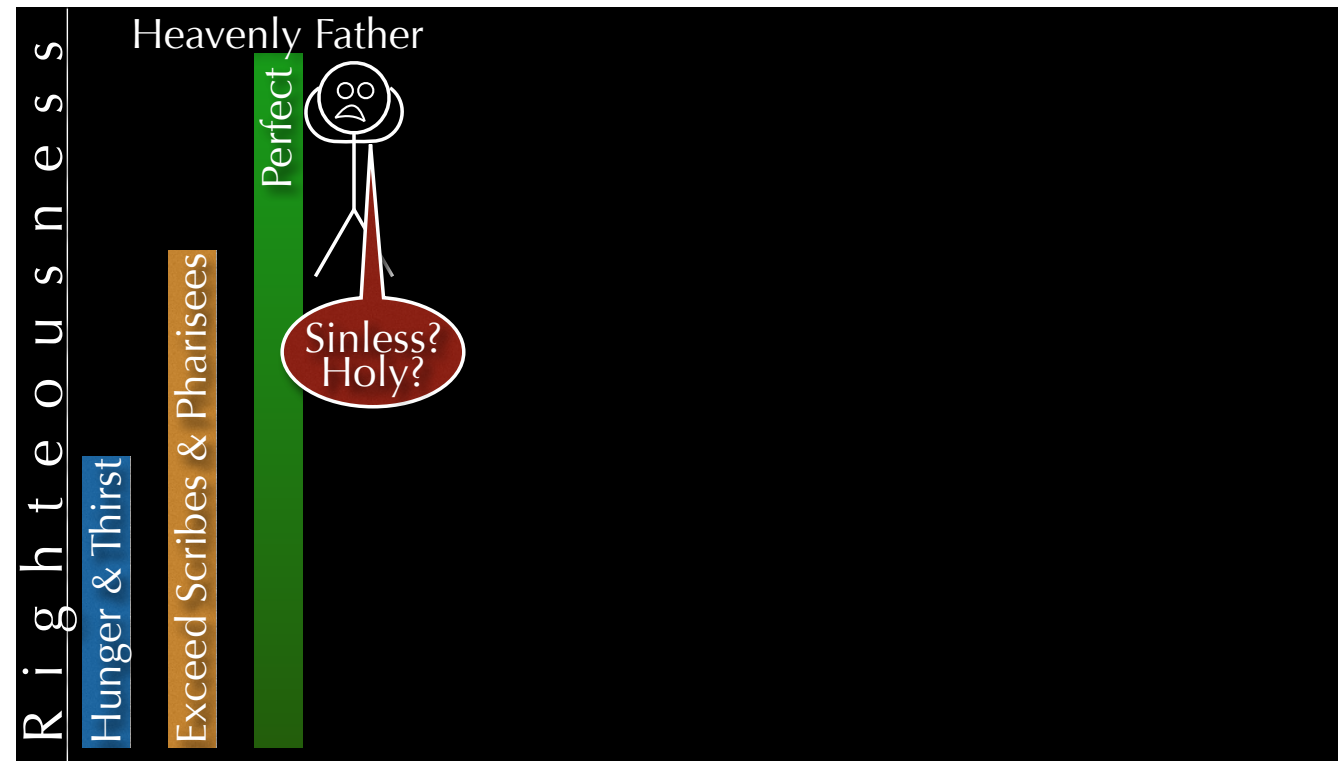
- An extremely high standard, almost impossible.
- Makes us feel extremely uncomfortable
- How can I ever be that righteous???



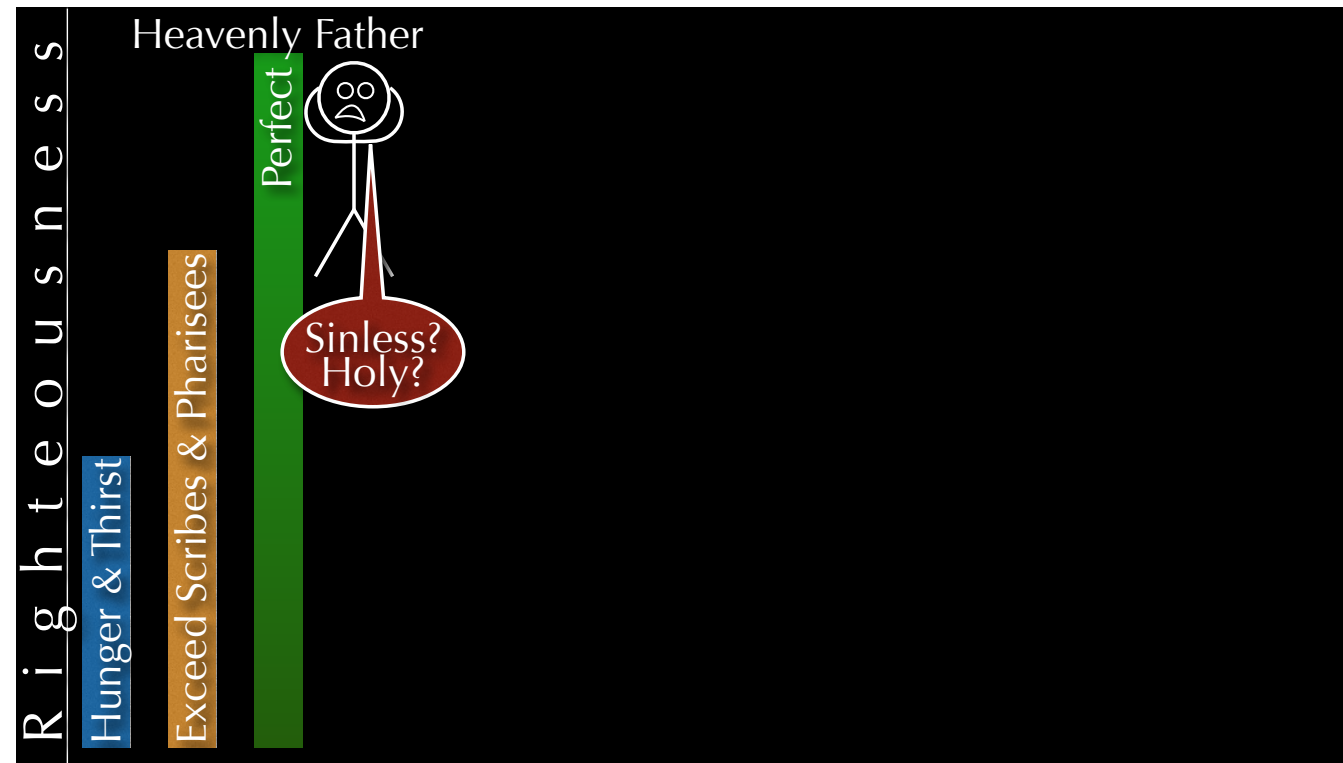
- He give us 5 examples
 - Murder - Anger - God is Life.
 - Adultery, Divorce - Lust in heart - God is faithful.
 - Oaths - Yes - God is truthful
 - Vengeance - Giving - God is merciful and kind
 - Hate - Love - God is love.



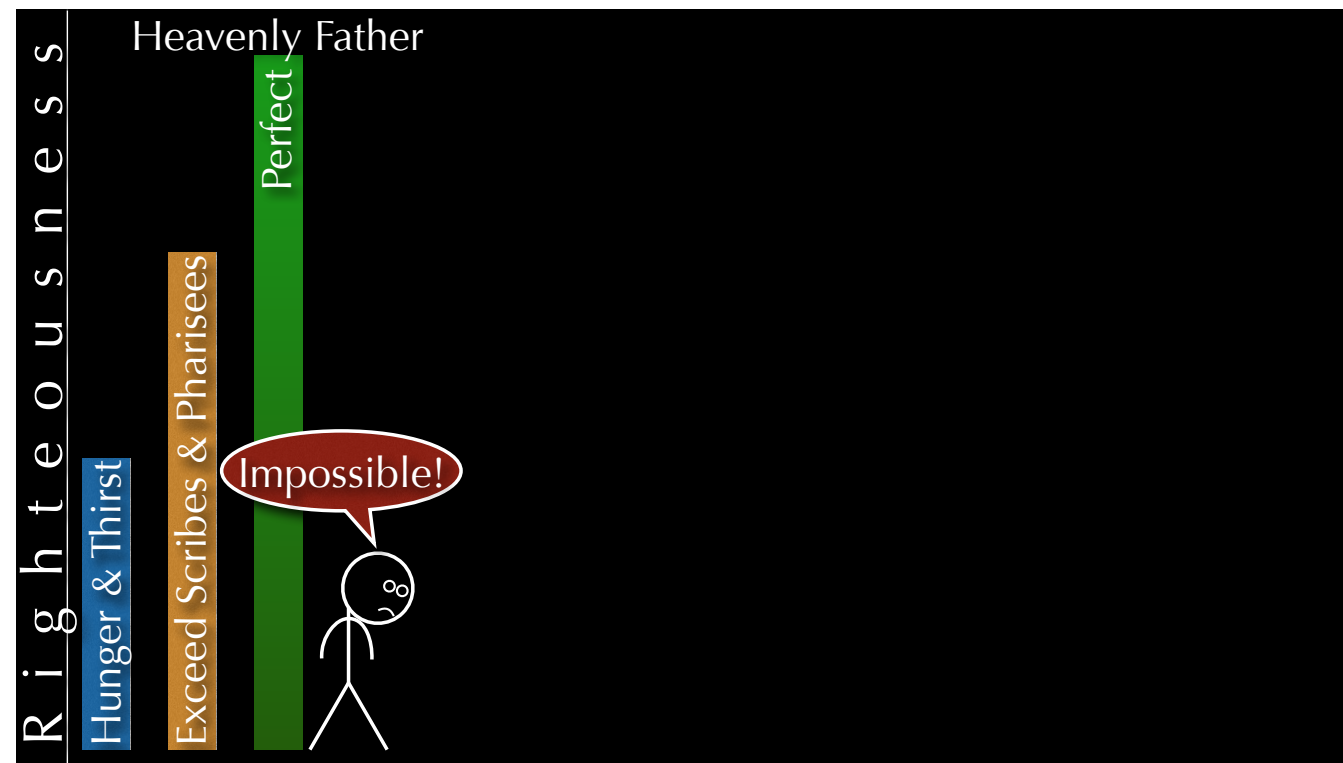
- Matthew 5:48: You therefore must be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect.
- Now that's really scary.
- Jesus has raised the standard of righteousness to the highest height
- What does it mean to be perfect... perfect like God?



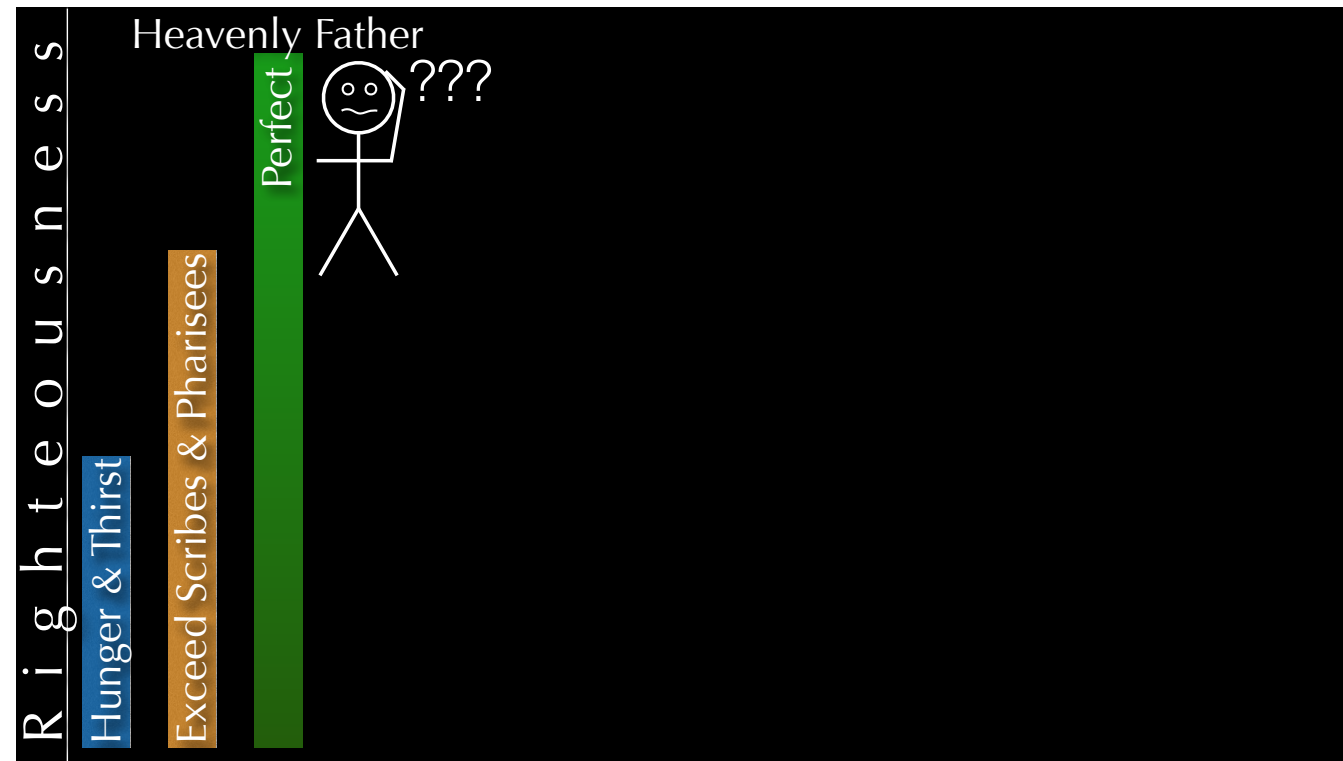
- This passage has been interpreted to mean that our Father expects us to live lives of sinless perfection,
 - never violating any of his laws.
 - We are to be as absolutely perfect as God is (and He is utterly without sin).
 - Sinless and holy
- Often this leads to a sense of frustration, for I know my thoughts, and my heart, and find that I'm not pure in that sense.



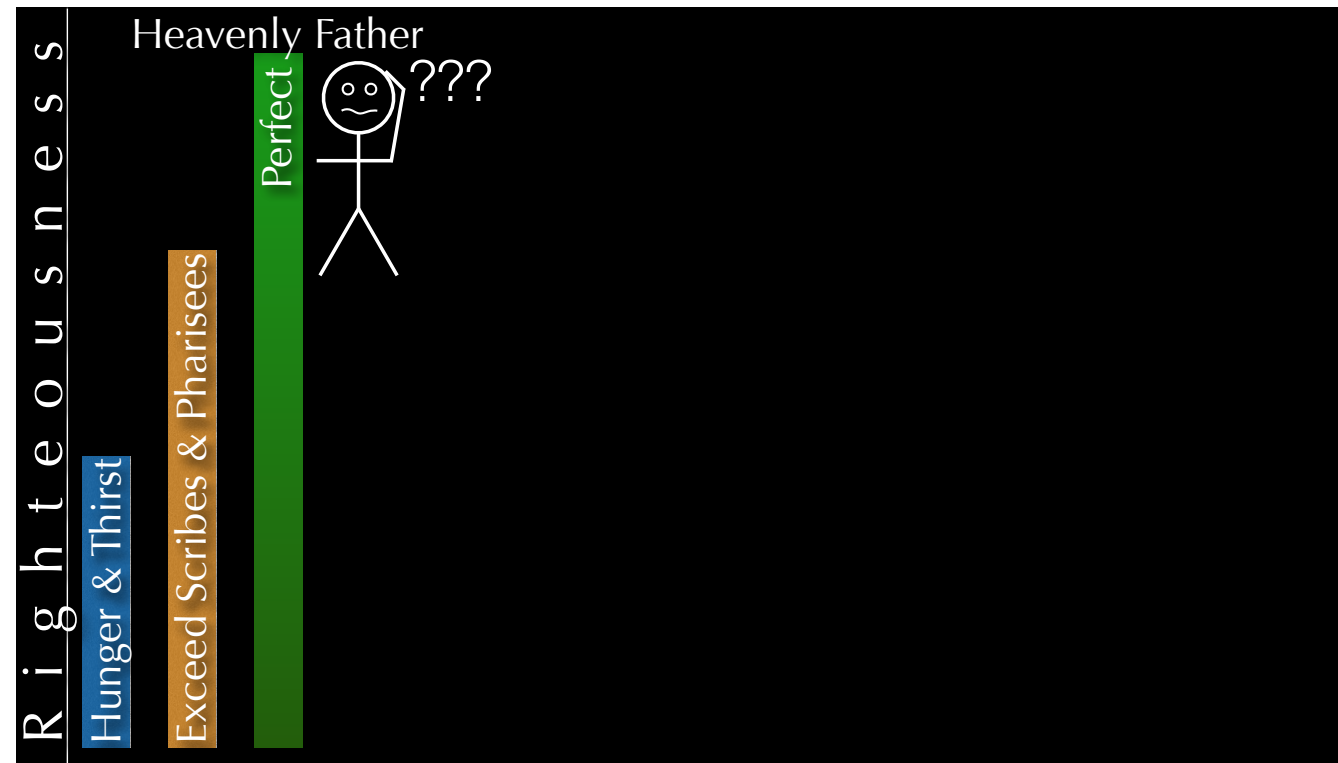
- This Can lead to a sense of futility. For I know I'll never attain that kind of perfection.
- And so, if I am saved, it will be barely being saved
 - 1 Peter 4:18: And "If the righteous is scarcely saved, what will become of the ungodly and the sinner?"



- Impossible for me to be perfect.
 - Walk away sorrowful, like rich young ruler
- This is not Jesus' intention
 - He loves us... wants to help us
 - Wants us to be in His kingdom.



- What does it mean? What does it mean that our Heavenly Father is perfect?
 - Use context...
 - Who does God love and how does he demonstrate that love?
 - Love enemies; Pray for those who persecute
 - Sun rise on evil and good
 - Rain on just and unjust
 - What reward if love those who love you?



- who gives himself to the law of love without holding back on any point, including even his enemies in genuine love
- The fact that absolute sinlessness is not the thought expressed here we see from v. 6, where the blessed disciples still hunger for righteousness, and from v. 7, where they still need mercy and are blessed by constantly obtaining it.



- Thayer: completeness: — of full age, man, perfect
 - of men — full grown, adult, of full age, mature

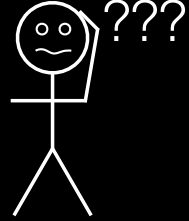
R i g h t e o u s n e s s

Hunger & Thirst

Exceed Scribes & Pharisees

Perfect

Heavenly Father ???



“completeness — of full age, man, perfect;
full grown, adult, mature”
Thayer

“full age, adulthood, full-grown”
Complete Word Study Bible

- CWSB: Specifically of persons meaning full age, adulthood, full-grown, of persons, meaning full-grown in mind and understanding

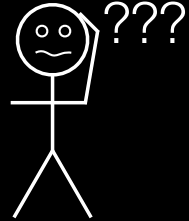
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“completeness — of full age, man, perfect; full grown, adult, mature”
Thayer

“full age, adulthood, full-grown”
Complete Word Study Bible

“to fulfill its ultimate design”
Mounce Expository Dictionary

- MED:
 - The notion of “perfection” in contemporary English conveys the idea of “sinlessness” but teleios refers to “completion” without reference to fault or sin.

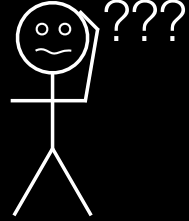
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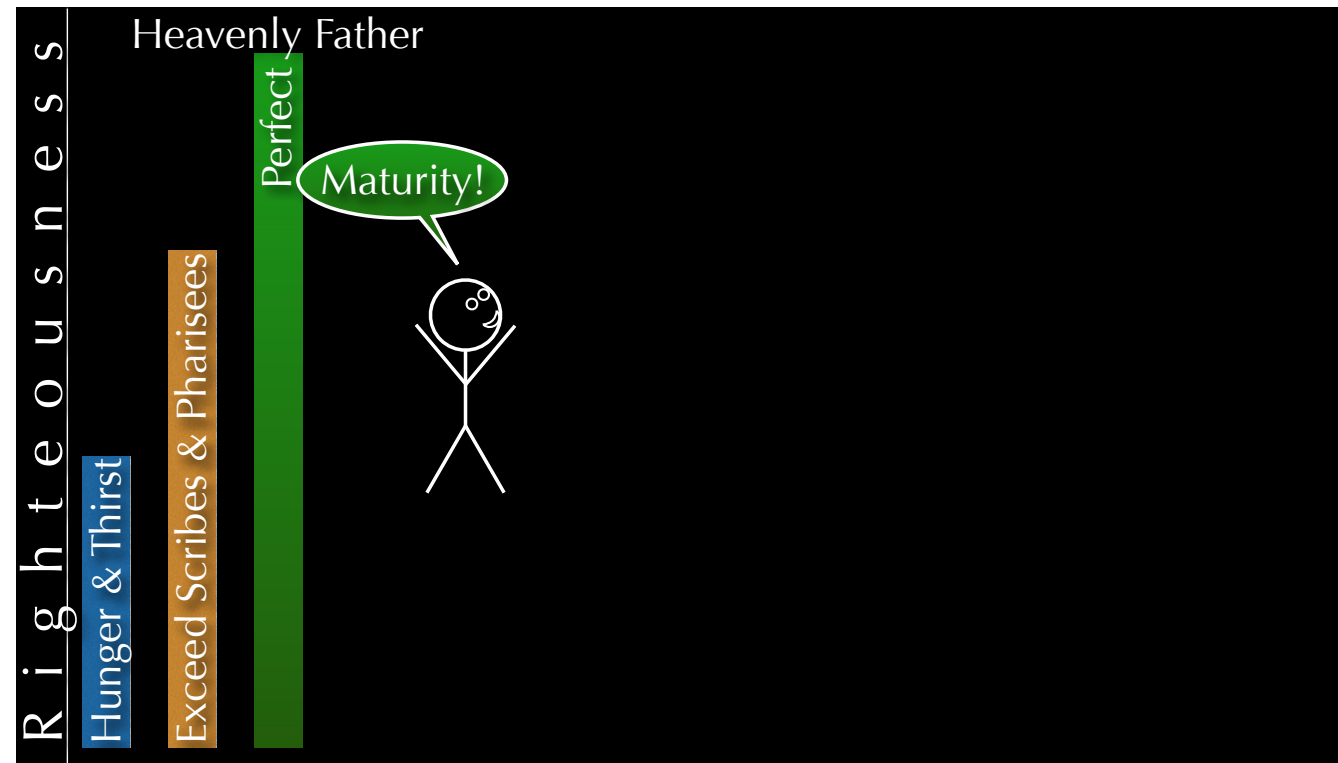


“completeness — of full age, man, perfect; full grown, adult, mature”
Thayer

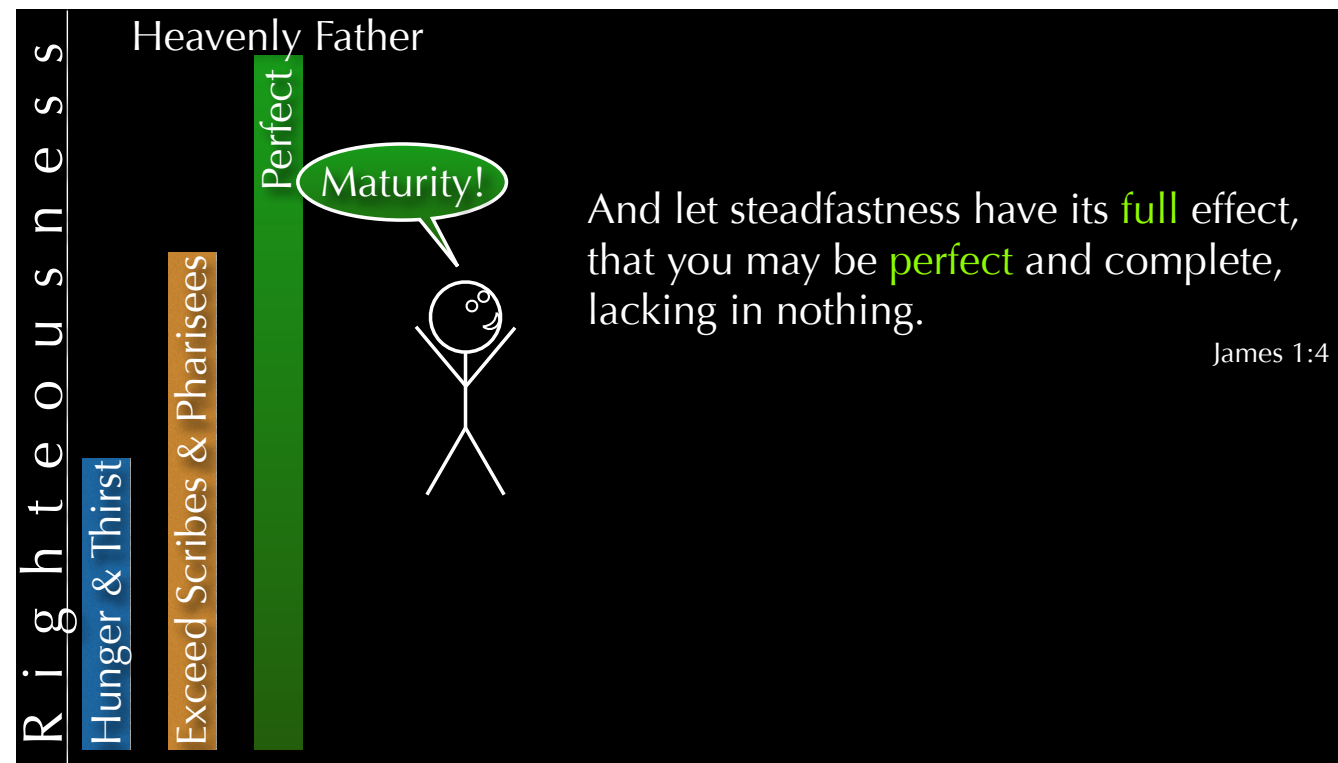
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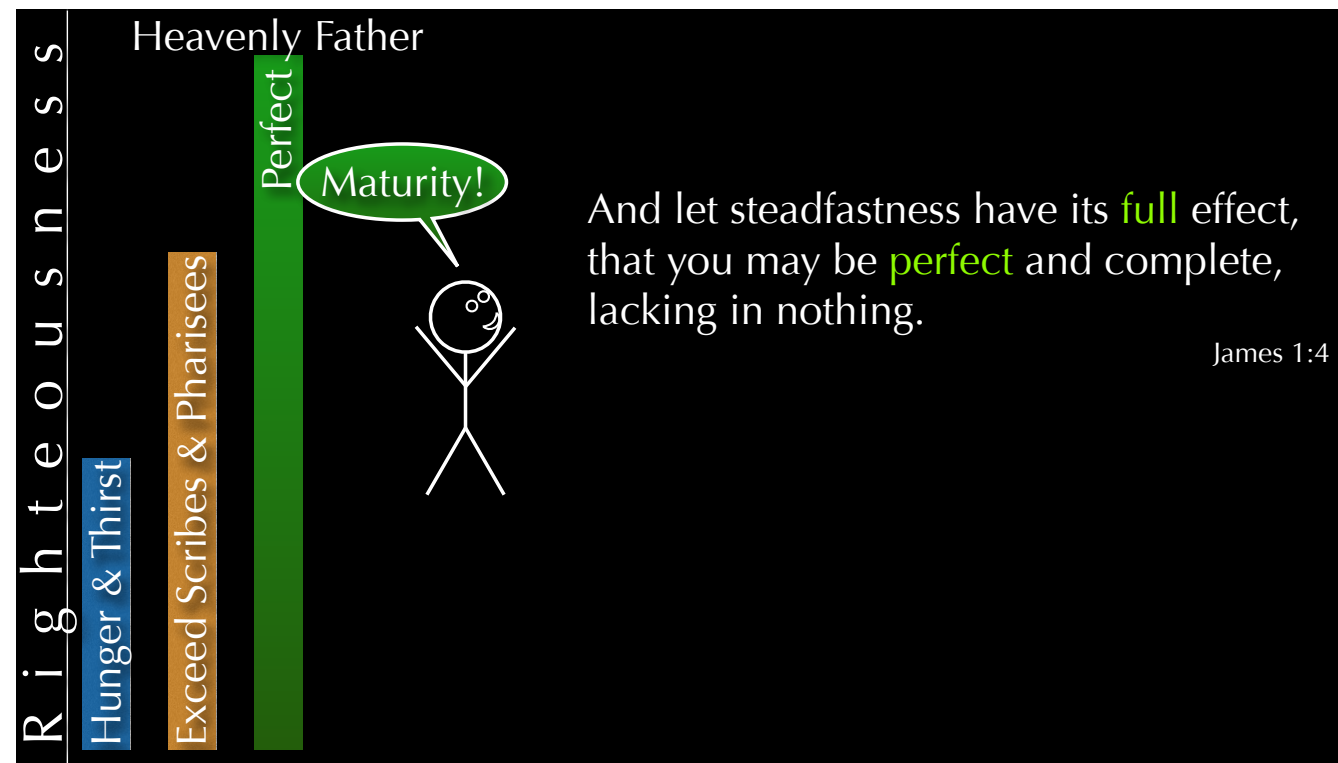
- For something to be “perfect” means to fulfill its ultimate design.
 - For example, a chair is “perfect” if it has four legs and can support a person, thus fulfilling the purpose for which it was designed.



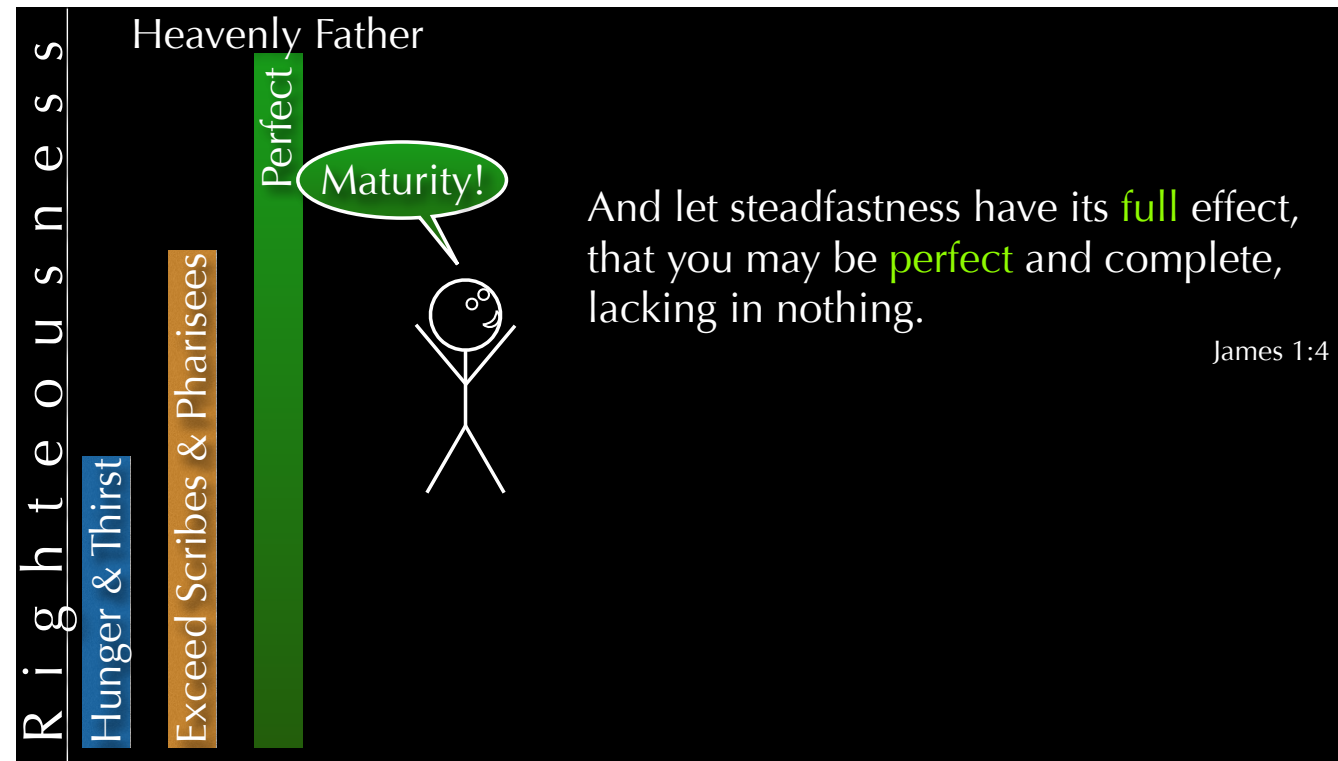
- Used of people, the idea of “perfect” is maturity.
- My Father wants me to be a full grown adult follower, complete in Character like He is.
- Easy to see when we look at how this word is used...



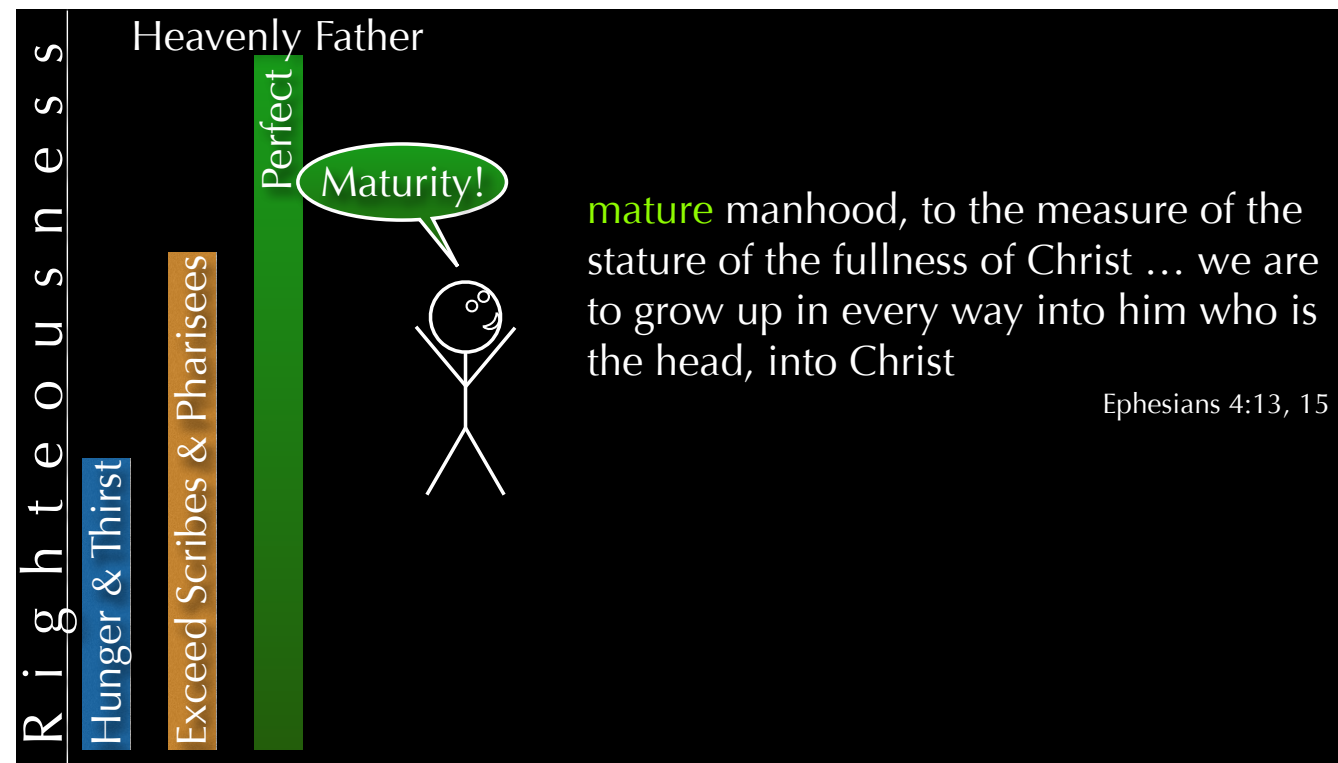
- James 1:2-4: Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be **perfect** and complete, lacking in nothing.
 - Perfection in this passage has nothing to do with obedience!



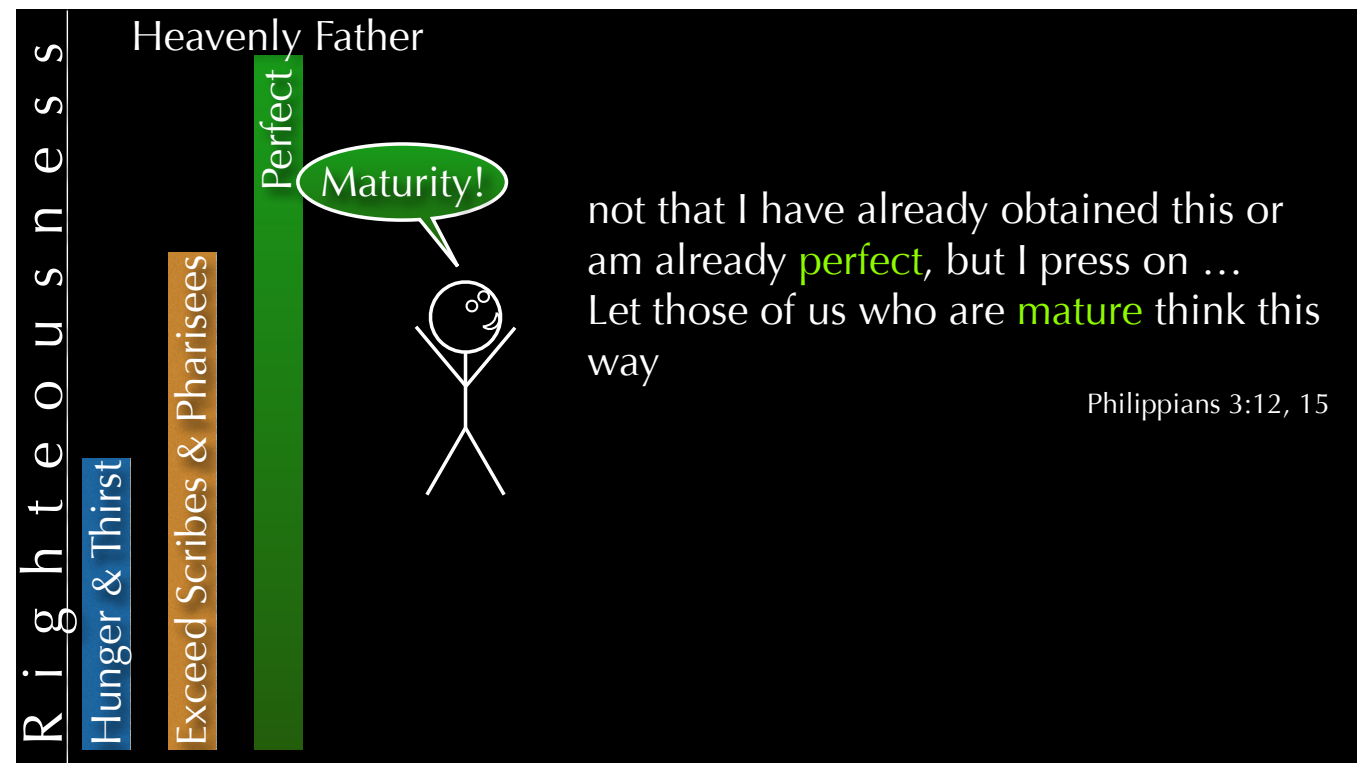
- Perfection is related to endurance through trials.
 - Trials — testing faith — steadfastness
- “Full effect”
 - Full = teleios (5046)
 - Effect = work, product, labor



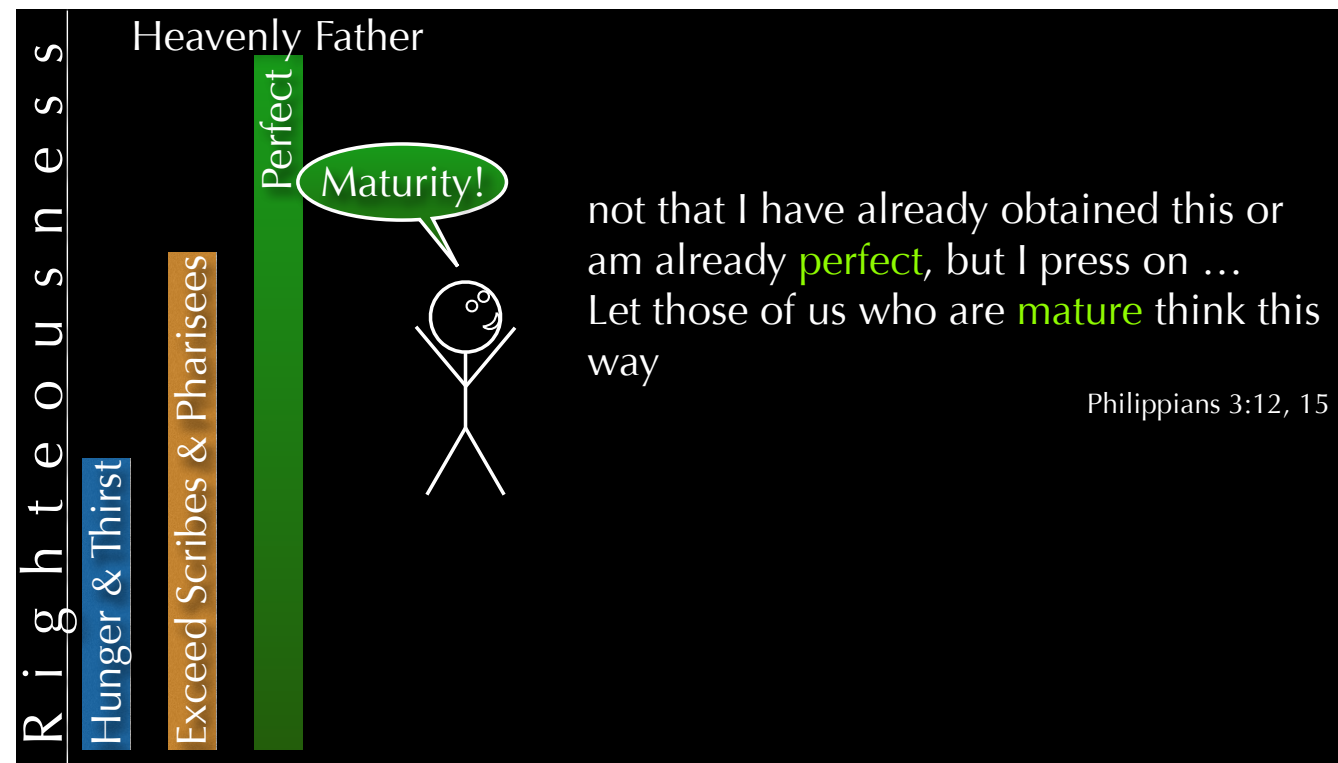
- Perfect (5046)
- Complete: Thayer: complete in all its parts, in no part wanting or unsound, complete, entire, whole
- Lacking: Thayer: To leave, leave behind, forsake, to be left behind; to lag, be inferior



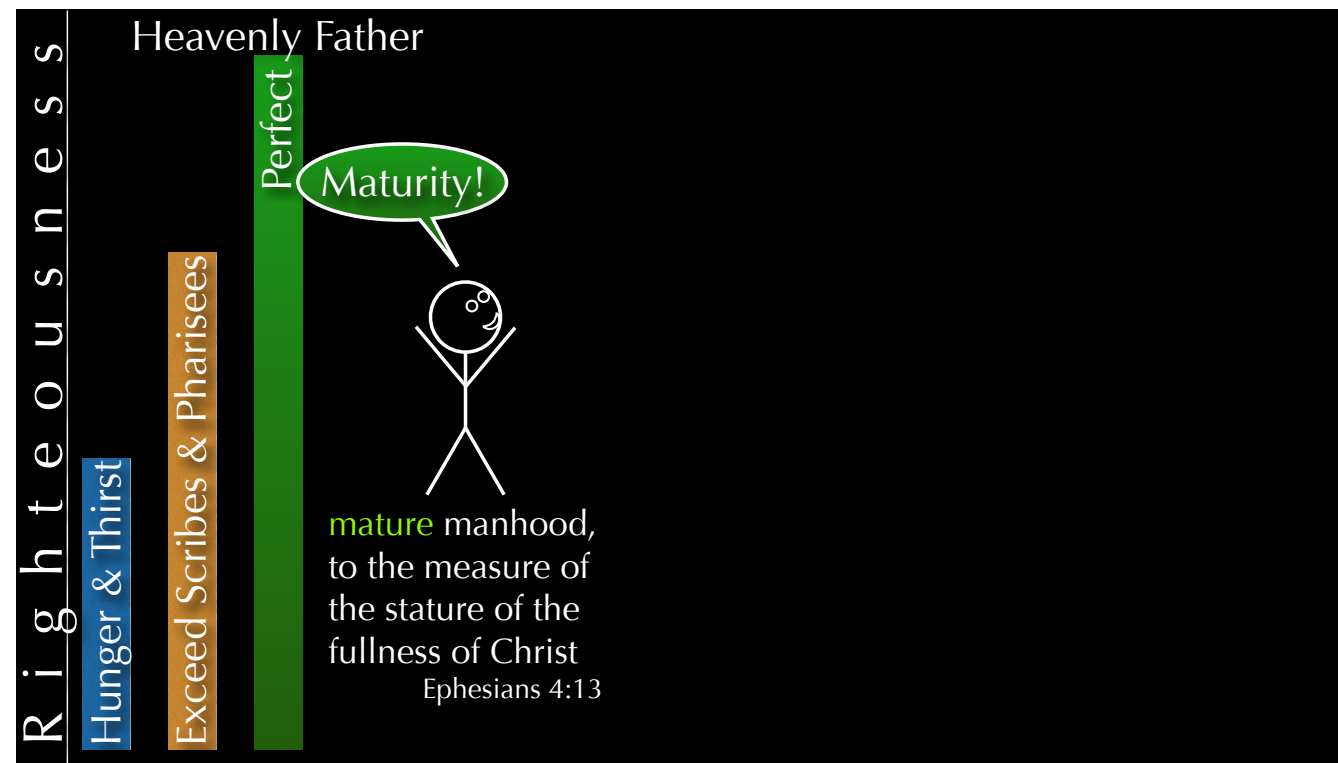
- Ephesians 4:13-16 (ESV) 13 until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, 14 so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes. 15 Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, 16 from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.



- Philippians 3:9: and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, **the righteousness from God** that depends on faith—
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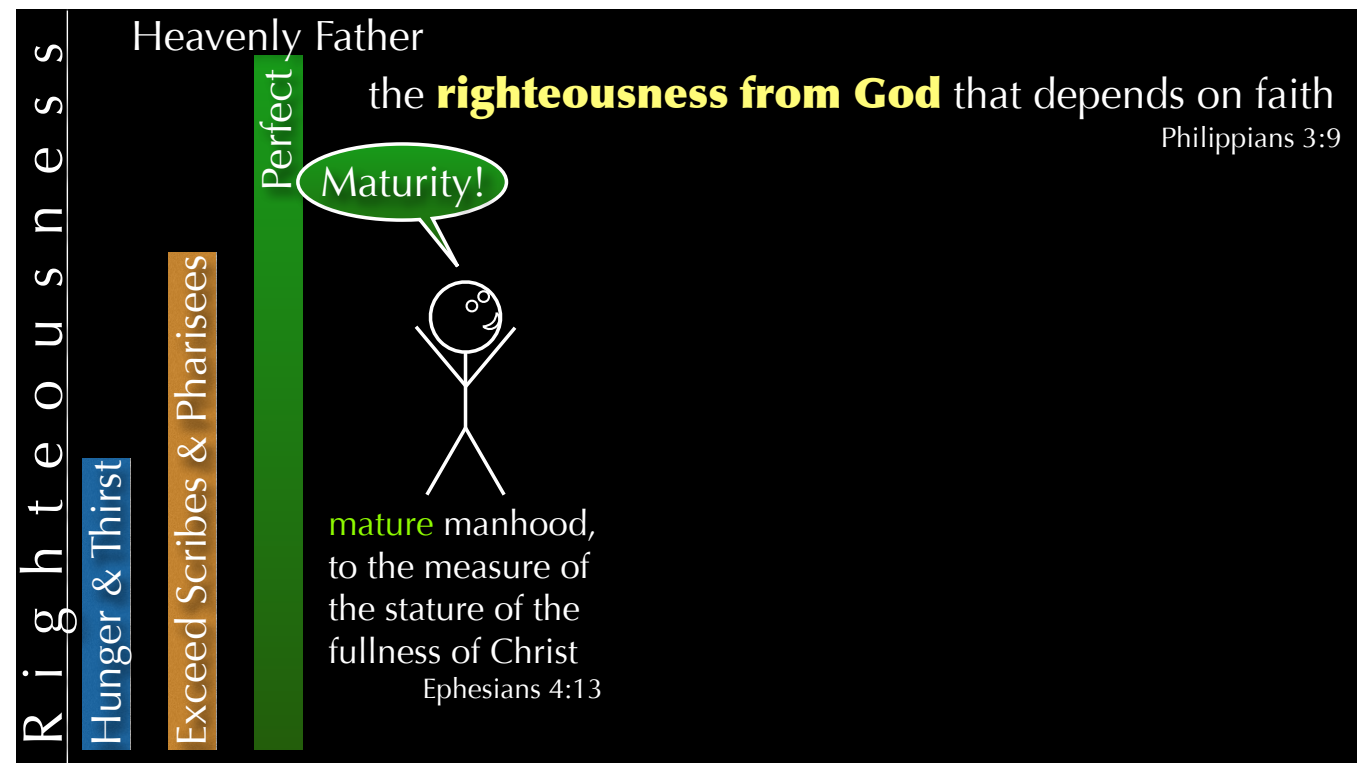
- Philippians 3:12-16 (ESV) 12 Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect, but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. 13 Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own. But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, 14 I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. 15 Let those of us who are mature think this way, and if in anything you think otherwise, God will reveal that also to you. 16 Only let us hold true to what we have attained.



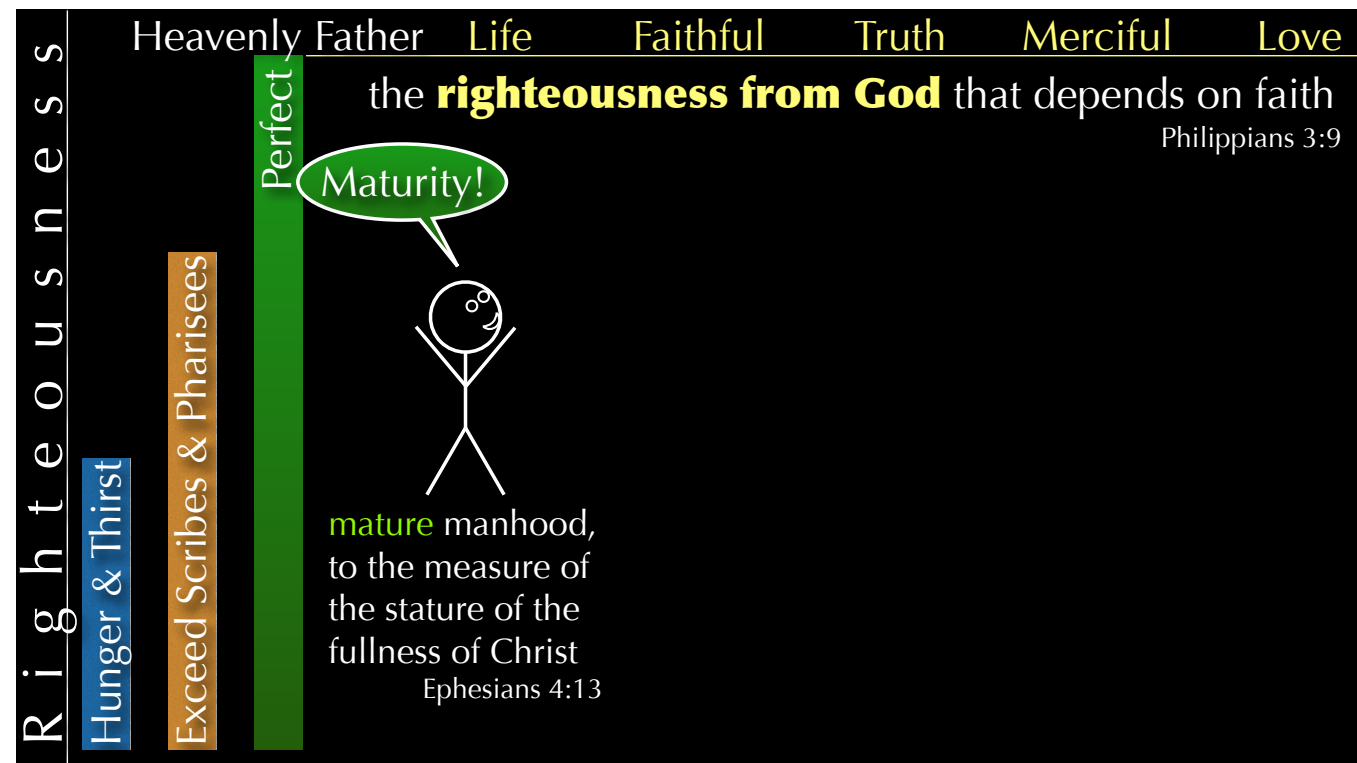
- So what does it mean to have the maturity like my Father?
 - measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ.



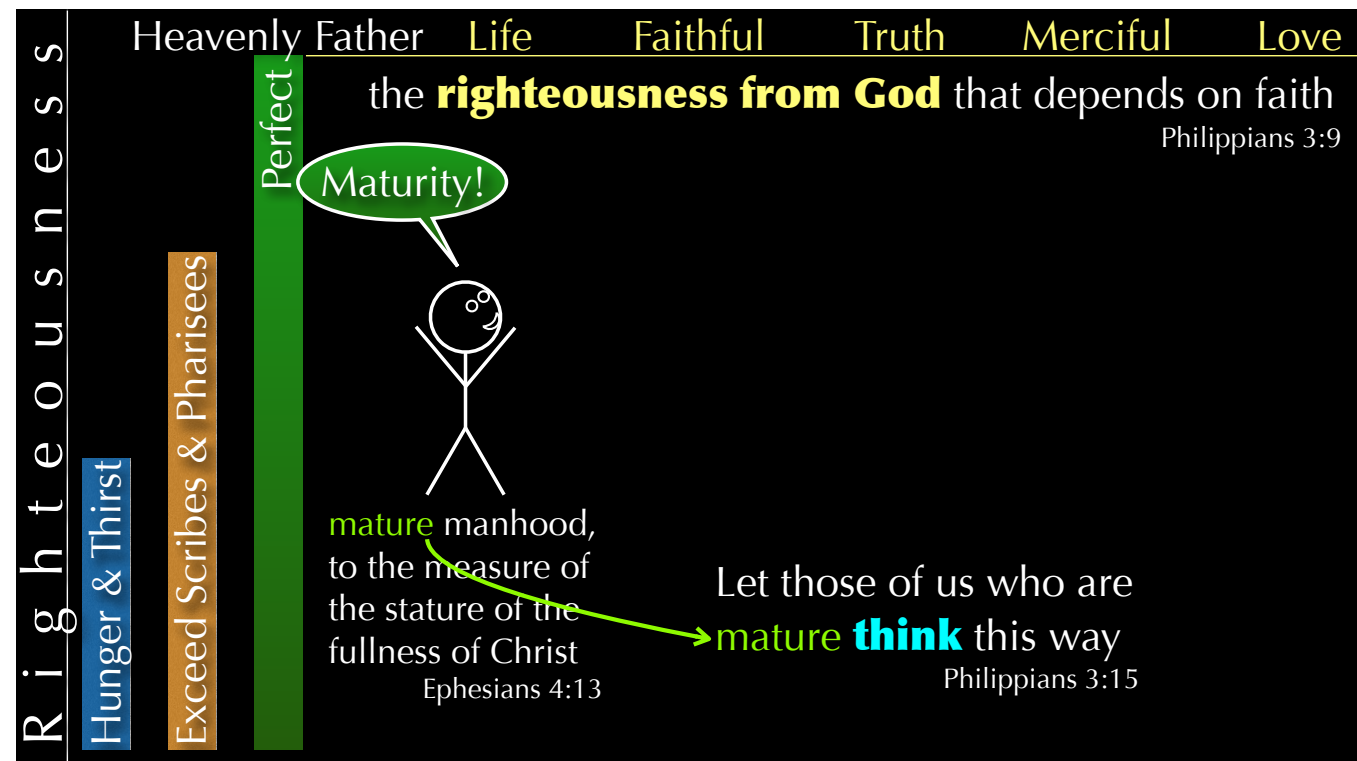
- It means that I want to grow up to be like my big brother, who is like my Father.
 - It's really not about how high...
 - It's about resembling my Father: Character, and quality.
 - Look like Him, Act like Him, Think like Him, Be like Him.



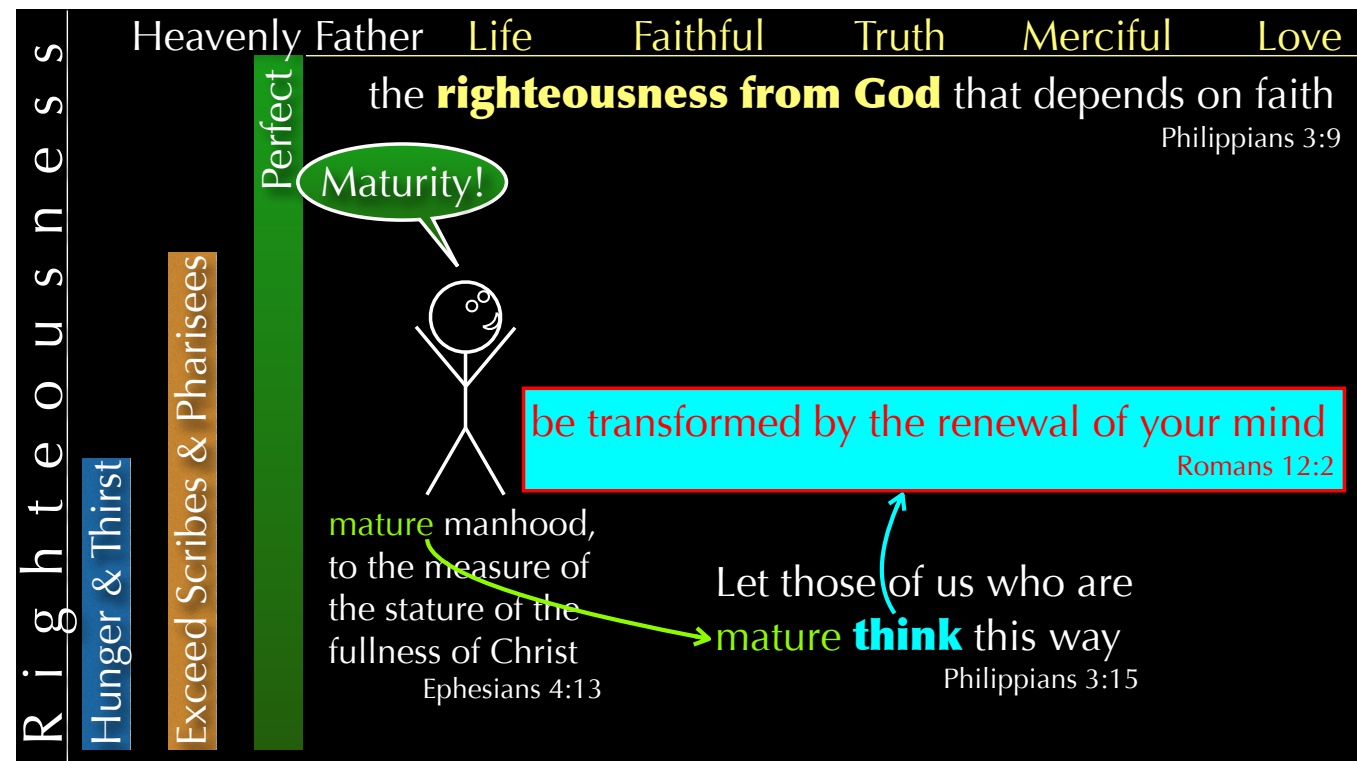
- Philippians 3:9: and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, **the righteousness from God** that depends on faith—
- My righteousness is because of Him
 - Not my own works, or own righteousness



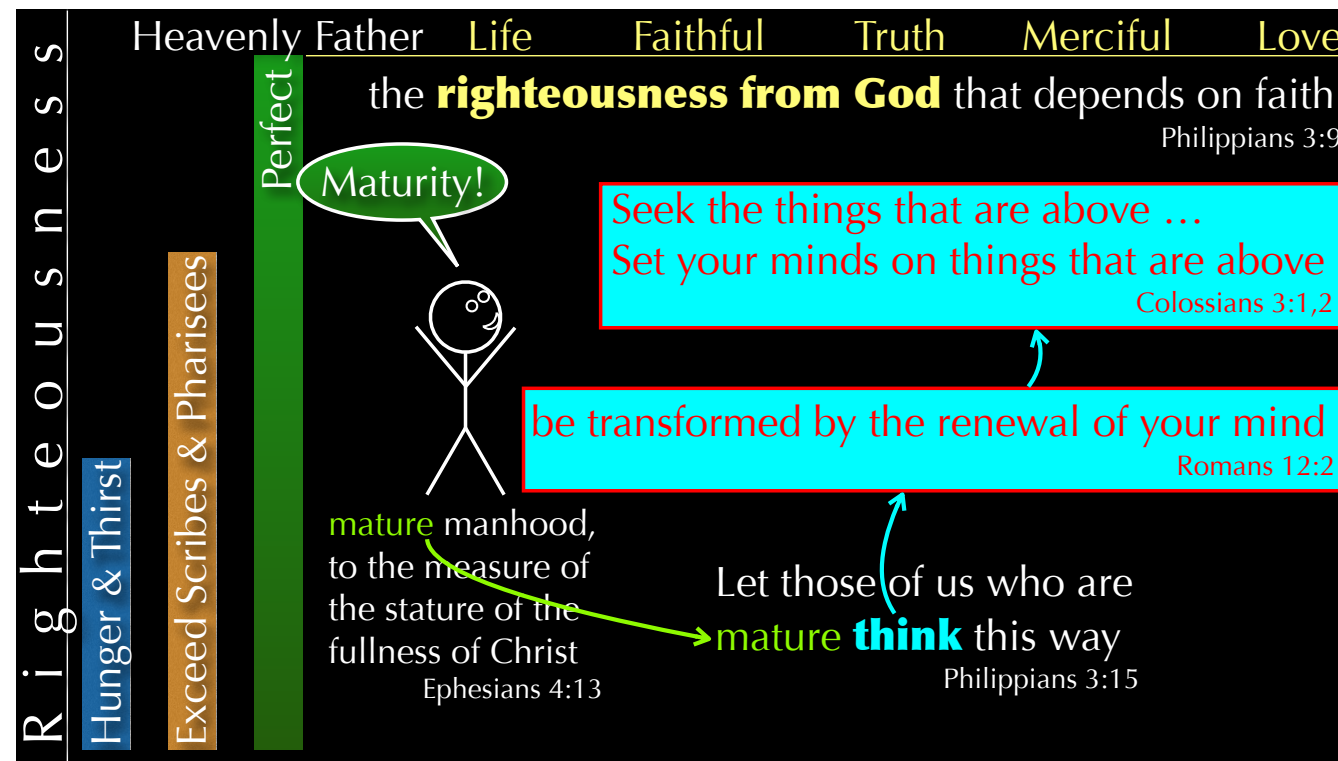
- Jesus has shown us in this passage about the righteousness of God
- Life, Faith, Truth, Mercy, Love (examples, not exhaustive)



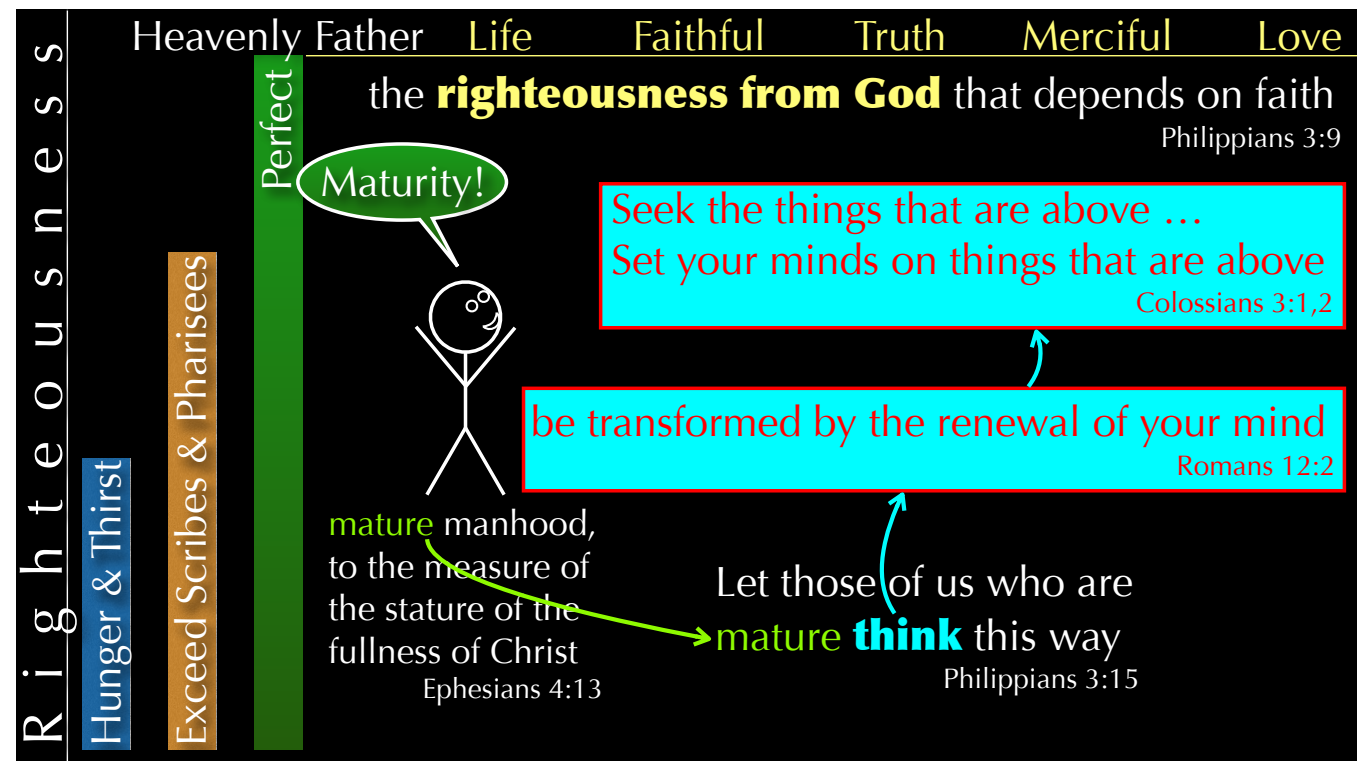
- Philippians 3:15: Let those of us who are mature think this way, and if in anything you think otherwise, God will reveal that also to you.
- 1 Corinthians 14:20: Brothers, do not be children in your thinking. Be infants in evil, but in your thinking be mature.



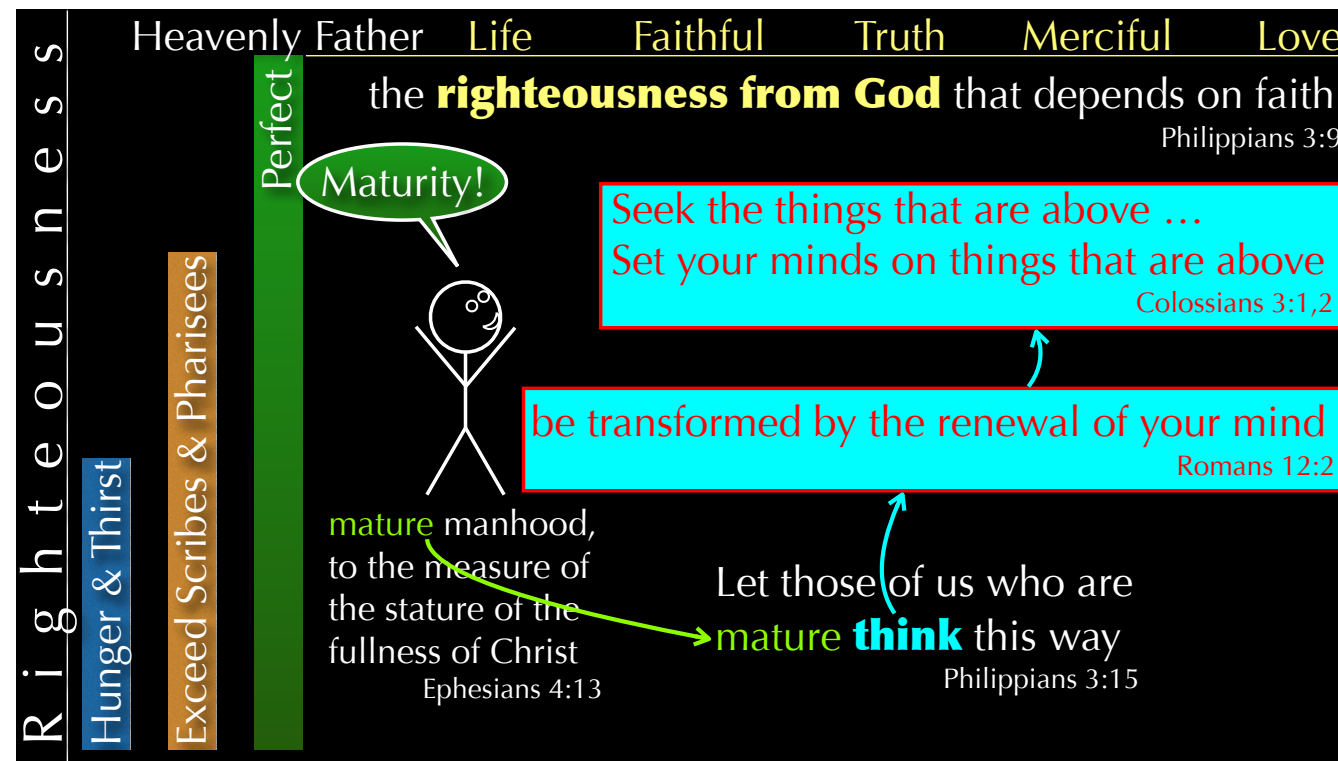
- Romans 12:2: Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.
- Don't think like world
- Don't think like religious leaders have taught.



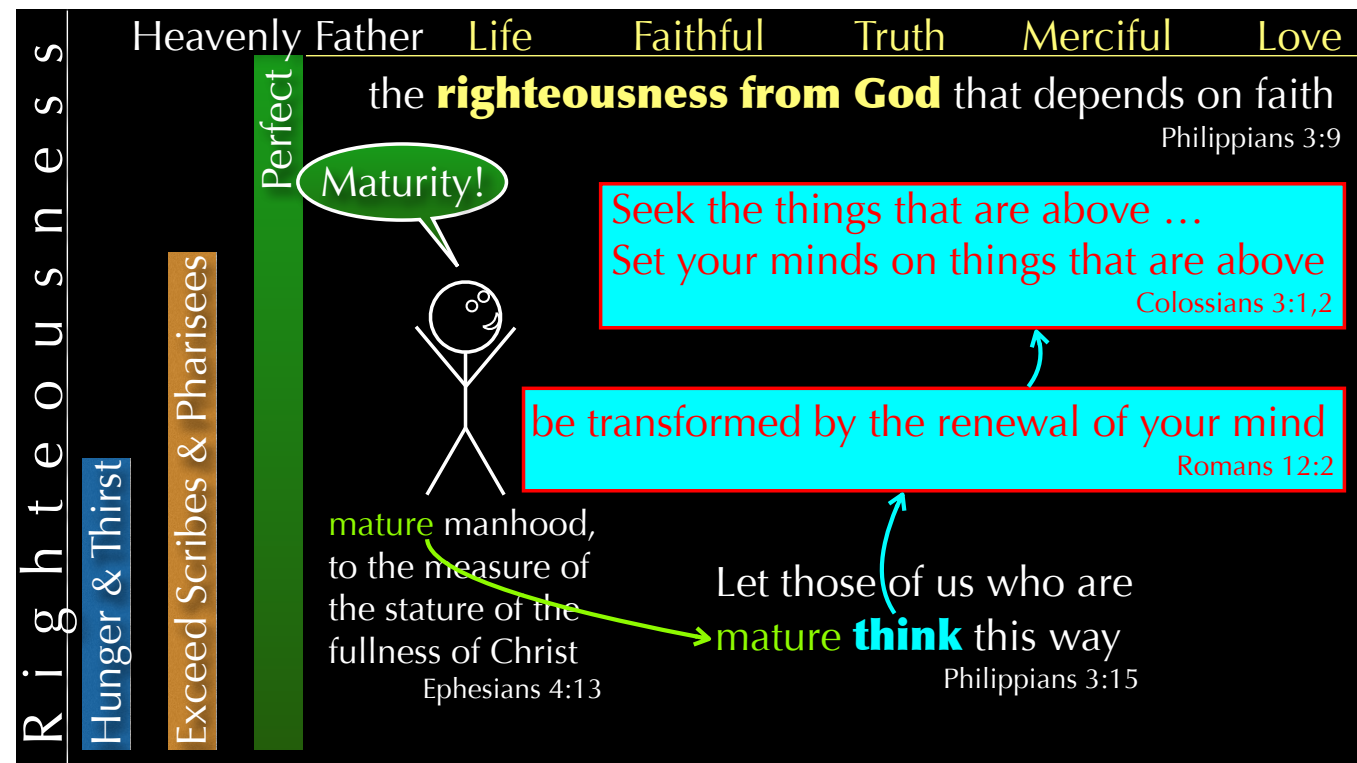
- Colossians 3:1-4 (ESV) 1 If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. 2 Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. 3 For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. 4 When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.



- Righteousness is not just about what I am doing.
- Nor what I am thinking (why I'm doing things).



- Rather, it is about BEING. Character.
 - Who I am, results in why I do what I do.
 - My character is to be just like the character of God
 - Is this possible?



- Remember,
 - It is not a righteousness of our own, by our works,
 - But a righteousness of God, my faith

Heavenly Father Life Faithful Truth Merciful Love

the **righteousness from God** that depends on faith
Philippians 3:9

R i g h t e o u s n e s s

Hunger & Thirst

Exceed Scribes & Pharisees

Perfect

Maturity!

You must be perfect.

mature manhood,
 to the measure of
 the stature of the
 fullness of Christ
Ephesians 4:13

- You MUST be Perfect
 - You can!
- Don't be like the RYR, don't walk away sorrowful.
- Follow Jesus!

**We implore you on
behalf of Christ,
be reconciled to God.**

2 Corinthians 5:20

Let all that you do be done in love.

1 Corinthians 16:14



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You Must be Perfect

Matthew 5:48

Synopsis: Jesus concludes his thoughts on exceeding the righteousness of the Scribes and Pharisees by changing our perspective and understanding. Our righteousness must rise to the standard of God's perfection. Perfection, in this context, is not sinlessness, but maturity. Our God wants our character to be mature like His Character.

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"Let all that you do be done with love."