

MATTHEW 5:43-48

⁴³"You have heard that it was said, 'YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR and hate your enemy.' ⁴⁴But I say to you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, ⁴⁵so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven; for He causes His sun to rise on *the* evil and *the* good, and sends rain on *the* righteous and *the* unrighteous. ⁴⁶For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? ⁴⁷If you greet only your brothers, what more are you doing *than others*? Do not even the Gentiles do the same? ⁴⁸Therefore you are to be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect.



SERMON NOTES

January 1, 2012

T. Don Guthrie, preaching

On Being Perfect

Matthew 5:43-48

Harmful virus!

WHO? – The enemy.

WHAT? – "You can't be perfect."

teleios – "having reached its destination/purpose"

- OLD Testament (vs. 17-19)

"Whoever then annuls one of the least of these commandments, and teaches others to do the same, shall be called least in the kingdom of heaven..." (v. 19)

- NEW Thoughts

I can deal with my anger. (vs. 20-26)

I can protect my mind and my marriage. (vs. 27-32)

I can tell the truth (vs. 33-37)

I can love my enemies (vs. 38-48)

- WHY TRY?

1 Peter 1:13-16

¹³ Therefore, prepare your minds for action, keep sober *in spirit*, fix your hope completely on the grace to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ. ¹⁴ As obedient children, do not be conformed to the former lusts *which were yours* in your ignorance, ¹⁵ but like the Holy One who called you, be holy yourselves also in all *your* behavior; ¹⁶ because it is written, "YOU SHALL BE HOLY, FOR I AM HOLY."