

CHASING CARROTS - PART 3: ARETE

SUNDAY, MAY 8, 2022

We feel a lot of pressure to be perfect, to get things right – so much so that we sometimes believe it takes perfection to be made right with God. But it is not through perfection we are made right with God. Instead, we are made right with God through grace and placing our trust in Jesus.

READ MATTHEW 5:43-48; ROMANS 3:19-21

- Have you ever struggled with perfectionism? If so, in what ways or areas of life?
- What do you think Jesus meant when he said “be perfect as God is perfect”?
- What pressure does “be perfect” place on you in life and relationship with God?
- Why do you think Paul says “no one” can be made right with God by obeying the law?
- Do you agree that people do not have it within themselves to full follow the law? Why or why not?
- If following the laws doesn’t make us right with God, why do you think people try to earn God’s approval through good works, etc.?
- How does the law reveal our imperfection, need for help, mercy and grace?
- If being made right with God is through placing faith in Jesus, how does that take the pressure of perfection out of the equation?
- If Jesus takes the pressure of perfection off of us, how does that free us to approach life and relationships differently?
- What is the significance of Jesus saying “be perfect” in the context of love and kindness rather than perfection?
- What next step will you take to be made right with God?

PERFECT ≠ RIGHT