Philosopher John Lachs reflects on our desire for perfection, which he connects with the longing for God and the experience of beauty. Suggesting that the ideal of moral perfection can be inhumane, Lachs concludes, “the fact that the world could be better does not imply that we are obliged to make it better.”

John Lachs is Centennial Professor of Philosophy at Vanderbilt University. He is the author of many books and articles, including most recently The Cost of Comfort (2010). He is the editor of the Encyclopedia of American Philosophy. This presentation is based on his article, “Good Enough” in the Journal of Speculative Philosophy.