

NO SHORT-CUTS

When James A. Garfield was president of Hiram College, a man brought for admission as a student, his son, for whom he wished a shorter course than the regular. "The boy can never take all that in," said the father. "He wants to get through quicker. Can you arrange it for him?"



Mr. Garfield, a minister-educator said, "Oh yes. He can take a short course; it all depends on what you want to make of him. When God wants to make an oak, He takes a hundred years, but He takes only two months to make a squash."

Many want instant spirituality – like instant coffee or potatoes! It doesn't come that way! There are no short courses! No short-cuts! No gimmicks! It takes time to grow! Growth is a sequence – an orderly arrangement! "For when for the time ye ought to be teachers, ye have need that one teach you again ..." was God's indictment of the Hebrew Christians (Hebrews 5:12-14).

What was their problem? Using milk? Not necessarily! But, continuing on a milk diet when they should have been on meat! They had not grown! They were not making progress! But, they had **time** to mature!

Is this our problem? We have looked for short-cuts rather than taking the necessary courses essential to grow! We can accelerate our growth if we will to grow, to participate, to be involved, to apply ourselves, to accept responsibility – to cooperate! This is why some in the church are more spiritually mature though they have been in the church a much shorter time.

After mentioning the Christian graces to add to our faith, virtue, knowledge, temperance, patience, godliness, kindness, and love – Peter affirmed that "if these things be in you and abound, we will not be barren or unfruitful" (2 Peter 1:5-10). The implication is clear – if we are not growing in them – our lives will be fruitless.

Take time to grow!

- Clarence DeLoach, Jr., *Pulpit Helps*

Contentment

It is difficult to have complete contentment. Even knowing that God answers all prayers, provides all blessings, and gives strength to us doesn't deter us from getting a pang of envy, a stirring of discontent, or a slipping away from God. Paul learned the valuable lesson of being content in any and every condition he found himself (Philippians 4:11).

To avoid coveting, envy, greed, discontent and ingratitude, God, through the Hebrew letter, instructs us (13:5) "...be content with such things as ye have..."

As we ponder the wonderful truths of the Bible, we come away amazed at the longsuffering and love of our God, and a feeling of contentment in His service knowing He is always there for us whatever our need.

- John Wright, Woodbine Church of Christ, Nashville, TN

Which tent do you live in? Con-tent or Discon-tent?

News & Notes

ELDERS TO SPEAK: This annual event will be tonight at 6:30. Plan to be here to listen to these men speak and to encourage them.

SYMPATHY: To Helene Wilson at the passing of her grandson, Ron Carbone in Martinburg, WV; to Marlene Evans at the passing of her brother-in-law, Harold Masters; and to Denise Noland at the passing of her grandmother, Opal Howell. God bless and comfort these families.

CARE & SHARE BEARS: Each Tuesday at 9:00 a.m. Join the ladies in this good work to make stuffed bears for children.

TO CLEVELAND CLINIC: Dan & Sharon Williams are scheduled to go to the Clinic, Sat., Jan. 31st. Dan is to have a stem cell transplant for cancer, and Sharon will need to stay with him for an extended period of time. We pray and wish for them the best.

PANTRY: Oatmeal & cereal.

REMEMBER THESE SHUT-INS: Virginia Rickerd, Fred Larrimore, Jr.

KEEP IN PRAYER: Remember the many who are in need of our continual prayers. "The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much." James 5:16.

THOSE WITH HEALTH CONCERNS: Trinity West, Steubenville: Marie Jones. UPMC, Pittsburgh: Docie Moore & her mother, Barb Shafer. At Home: Geraldine Barrett, Imogene Nice, Wade Sprout, Dylan Heinselman, Randy Beagle, Marilyn Sprout (at her mother's in Hammondsville), Becky McKitrick, Virginia Ferrell, Beulah Rice, Marlene Reynolds, Gene Miller, Betty Gentry, Ruth Brewer, Betty Carlin, Crystal Baker, Linda Wiersbicki, Dan Williams. **Remember others confined to their homes and in nursing homes. Check the bulletin board.**

The Twenty-Third Psalm - the Divine Perfection

"The Lord is my Shepherd!" - Perfect Salvation.

"I shall not want." - Perfect Satisfaction.

"He maketh me to lie down in green pastures." - Perfect Rest.

"He leadeth me beside still waters." - Perfect Refreshment.

"He restoreth my soul." - Perfect Restoration.

"He leadeth me in paths of righteousness." - Perfect Guidance.

"I will fear no evil." - Perfect Protection.

"Thou art with me." - Perfect Company.

"Thy rod and Thy staff they comfort me." - Perfect Comfort.

"Thou preparest a table." - Perfect Provision.

"My cup runneth over." - Perfect Joy.

"Goodness and mercy shall follow me." - Perfect Care.

"I will dwell forever." - Perfect Destiny.

- The Vision, via *Pulpit Helps* -