

A Work In-Progress

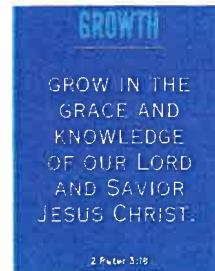
Growth, the word brings with it thought of a continuing increase of size and proportion. Considering the growth of living things, it's hard to name something that doesn't grow. When the seed of a plant falls to the earth, it germinates and begins to grow. When animals give birth to offspring, the growth process begins immediately. When a child is born, the baby starts a journey of growth and maturity.

In the spiritual realm, growth is both necessary and required. Once we experience spiritual rebirth through the Gospel, we are to desire the "pure milk of the word" so to grow from it. (1 Peter 2:2). Spiritual growth should encompass our whole being, both physical and emotional. The Apostle Peter encouraged his readers to develop and grow traits commonly known as the "Christian Graces." (2 Peter 1:5-7) Faith, virtue (goodness), knowledge, self-control, perseverance, godliness, brotherly kindness, and love are to be diligently added to our character. Peter goes on to say that if we possess these characteristics and continue to increase them, we are bearing fruit for the Lord and will not be considered barren or useless.

Now if you think about it, a fruit bearing plant doesn't produce all its fruit in just one day and then it's done. No, it will continue yielding fruit throughout the growing season. Applying the metaphor to ourselves, we won't develop all of the Christian graces right away and then be completely mature. Rather, with the Lord's help, we must work at growing ourselves throughout the entire season of our lives. Yes, we are a work in-progress, ever maturing but never matured until we meet the Savior in eternity.

We can't leave the subject without a warning. As we first mentioned, all things grow. Well, not all. There are conditions and diseases that prohibit living things from growing and lead to an early death. Peter said those who lack the Christian graces are shortsighted, blind, and have forgotten about their salvation. (2 Peter 1:9). So let us be diligent to add these graces to our character, never stumbling, finding ourselves in the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. (2 Peter 1:11).

~ Jay Launius – 2025 Maud Church of Christ Maud, Texas ~



Dying Christianity fails to present a living Christ.

News Notes

CONGRATULATIONS: to Todd & Tracey Leslie on the birth of a daughter, Huntley Ann on Tuesday, Jan. 20th. The grandparents are Jim & Linda Hall.

BIBLE MEDITATIONS: Monday-Friday 12:30-12:35 p.m. on WOHI 1490 AM and 103.9 FM.

COVERED DISH DINNER: Next Sunday, Feb. 1st about Noon at the Fellowship Building followed by our afternoon worship at 2:00 p.m. at the Church Building.

CONVERT'S CLASS: Postponed until Thursday, Feb. 5th.

LADIES DAY: Feb. 28th at the Marlboro Church of Christ, Louisville, OH. Topic: "Digging Deep-Conversations" by Cindy Colley. **RSVP** by Jan. 29th. Additional details on the back of our February calendar and on the bulletin board.

PANTRY: Hot chocolate..

REMEMBER IN PRAYER: SICK & SHUT-IN: *City Hospital:* Beulah Walker.

Pittsburgh Children's Home & Lemieux Center: Isaiah Robinson (Rich & Emily's baby). *Covington Skilled Nursing & Rehabilitation:* Nancy Hadley, 100 Covington Dr., Room 304, East Palestine, OH 44413. *At Home:* David Malcomson, Donna Stevens, the McKittricks, Tracy Clutter, Peggy Linger, Randy Beagle, Scharlotte Jones, Harry Huff, Nancy Cox, Barbara DeLong, Marlene Evans, Micheal Sabol (Karen Strum's daughter-in-law's father). *Serra Manor, Weirton:* Jean Haught (Skip's mother). *Fox, Chester:* Mary Johnson. *Elsewhere:* Herman McHan, 29 Jenny Lane, Columbiana, OH 44408.

ALSO REMEMBER THESE WITH HEALTH ISSUES: Christy Claypool, 204 Rio Pinar Drive, Warner Robins, GA 31088. Jackie Brown (Rico's mother), 4227 Prince Hall Blvd., Orlando, FL 32811.

WHICH?

There are two ways of beginning the day—with prayer, or without it. You began today in one of these two ways! Which?

There are two ways of spending the Lord's Day—idly or devotionally. You spend the Lord's Day in one of these two ways. Which?

There are two classes of people in the world—the saved and the unsaved. You belong to one of these two great classes, Which?

There are two great masters of men in the universe—God and Satan. You are serving under one of these two great masters. Which?

There are two roads which lead through time and eternity—the broad road and the narrow road. You are walking on one of these two roads. Which?

There are two deaths which people die—some "die in the Lord," others "die in their sins." You will die one of these two deaths. Which?

There are two places to which people go—heaven or hell. You will go to one of these two places. Which?

- Beacon, Bellview Church of Christ, Pensacola, FL -