

Are You Growing Up?

"But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ" (2 Peter 3:18).

By Mike Pittman

solid food belongs to those who are of full age... (Hebrews 5:12-14). It's ok to be "a babe." It's not ok to stay one. Progressing to meatier teachings of the word is a sign of growth.

"As newborn babes, desire the pure milk of the word, that you may grow thereby" (1 Peter 2:2).

"...but speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the Head - Christ" (Ephesians 4:15).

What do all of the above verses have in common? It is clear, isn't it, that they encourage Christians to grow. Are you growing? Let's think about some things which might be an indicator that you are growing up.

You are controlling your speech. "For we all stumble in many things. If anyone does not stumble in word, he is a perfect ("mature" - M.P.) man, able also to bridle the whole body" (James 3:2). What does it say about us when we go around gossiping, backbiting, tying, and speaking unkind words? Isn't it saying that we have some growing up to do?

You are eating solid food. "For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you again the first principles of the oracles of God; and you have come to need milk and not solid food. For everyone who partakes only of milk is unskilled in the word of righteousness, for he is a babe. But

You are becoming less gullible. "Till we all come to the unity of the faith and the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect ("mature" -M.P.) man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ; that we should no longer be children, tossed to a fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness by which they lie in wait to deceive, but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head-Christ" (Ephesians 4:13-15). We all need to get to the point where we can identify truth and error. We need to be like the Bereans (Acts 17:11) and be searchers of the scriptures. We should be serious students of the Bible and not have to be spoon-fed the word of God.

You are acting more mature. You are not petty and selfish - you are thinking of the needs of others and of their feelings. You are not easily offended and vengeful. You do not lose control and throw temper tantrums.

Are you growing up?



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The Auburn Beacon



Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven. (Matthew 5:16)

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Thoughts to Ponder

There is nothing wrong with change, if it is in the right direction"

All change is not growth, as all movement is not forward.

Do You Have a Bible Question?
Call (334) 734-2133 or
E-mail:
LarryRouse@aubeacon.com



SCHEDULE OF SERVICES Sunday

Bible Class9:30 AM
Worship10:20 AM
Evening Worship 6:00 PM

Wednesday

Bible Classes.....7:00 PM

Ask about our home Bible Study Groups!

Larry Rouse
Evangelist and Editor

The Trend Among the Young Preachers

By Connie Adams

A preacher in a congregation not too far away has been preaching in such a manner as to elicit criticism from some in the congregation who live the old paths and who remember when gospel preachers spoke "as the oracles of God." When one brother approached one of the elders about the matter, the elder passed it off by saying that such is the trend now all over the brotherhood among the young preachers. Any trend among the preachers, young or old, to "preach any other gospel" than that delivered by the Lord, is a trend in the wrong direction. The anathema of heaven rests upon any man or angel who proclaims any doctrine contrary to the New Testament. We are "not to be wise above that which is written." "Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God" (Gal. 1:6-9; 1 Cor. 4:6; 2 John 9.) Unsound

Now if entertainment is a divinely ordained part of the mission of the church, then I say let congregations build and equip such things. But until someone can set forth the book, chapter and verse which shows that such is the mission of the church, then I am going to oppose it.

preaching produces an unsound faith. James said, "My brethren, be not many of you teachers, knowing that we shall receive greater judgment" (Jas. 3:1.) These passages make it abundantly clear that preaching is to be taken seriously, and its value determined by the faith once delivered to the saints.

One thing this particular preacher has been preaching is that the church ought to build a kitchen. His argument is that we put a rest room in the building

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Check Us Out On the Internet: www.aubeacon.com

Classes This Week

Sunday 5:15 Kid's Class at the Building	Wed 10 AM Ladies Class at the Rouse's
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Sick

Fran Snyder (Mother of Carla Humphrey)	Lori Holloway	Chick Wade	Sandlyn Fultz (Davis Fultz's Sister)
Gloria Detmer and Carol Dickerson (Toni Herd's Sisters)	Carrie Chavers (Friend of Sharon Bailey)	Jared Nixon	Philip Locke (Jeremiah Johnson's Uncle)
Ross Folmar	Grandparents of Mary Ann Roberts	Joe Perry (Anna Miller's Relative)	Marsha and Lee (Toni Herd's Cousins)
Ed Mort (Friend of Sharon Bailey)	Kenn and Ellen Smith (Ken Sullivan's Parents)	Erlene Davis (Walker Davis' mother)	Mary Smith (Nathan Smith's Grandmother)
Gerald White (Christopher's and Wesley's Father)	Dave Brown (Friend of the Lanier's)	Bill Rhodes (Toni Herd's Uncle)	Mike Reed (Friend of the Long's)
Marty and Aubrey Meeks (Toni Herd's Nephews)	Frank Johnson (Debbi Coleman's Uncle)	Herbert Missildine (Toni Herd's Uncle)	Jo Faust Williams (Manna Jones' friend)

March Birthdays

- 2 - Mattie Norman
- 2 - Angela Fowler
- 3 - Shawn Oliver
- 4 - David Perry
- 7 - Josh Pender
- 8 - Carmen Herd
- 10 - Parker Godwin
- 12 - Brad Hartsell
- 12 - Daniel Hogeland
- 14 - Tyler Claxton
- 14 - Kaylee West
- 17 - Susan Sullivanne
- 18 - Kenzie Anderson
- 20 - Joy Liu
- 20 - Mary Ann Roberts
- 20 - Jimmy Roberts
- 21 - Carter Hunt
- 24 - Audra Hargett
- 24 - Debbie Johnson
- 24 - Jordon Toombs
- 26 - Jared Burton
- 28 - Shelby Freeman
- 29 - Rachel Stephens
- 30 - Amanda Stephens

News and Notes

Our Meeting Starts today with Alan Cornett. Printed Announcements are in the Foyer. Invite a friend!

Let us remember our expectant mothers in our prayers: Anne Morton and Jana Hall.

Mike and Debbie Johnson's son, Matthew, will be deployed this month. Also David Golden will be deployed soon. Also Tim Morton is currently serving our country in Afghanistan. .

There is a meeting with Bill Hall at Union Springs from March 13-16

There is a meeting with R. J. Stephens at Perry Hill Road in Birmingham—March 6-10 on "Worshipping God in Song."

Audio CD's will be available after each service this week.

February Birthdays

- 23 - Greg Lanier
- 26 - Maghen Smith
- 27 - Julie Johnson

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and nobody objects, but if we put a refrigerator in it, then some people object. Others have argued that a kitchen is just as right as a water fountain. The first thing wrong with this is, the effort is made to justify the church building a kitchen on the basis that something else is just as wrong, if it is wrong. Now if putting kitchens in buildings is parallel to rest rooms and water fountains, that still would not argue that any of them would be right. In the second place, I doubt seriously that anybody with normal mentality really thinks the rest room or the water fountain is parallel to a kitchen provided in the building. Rest rooms and drinking fountains are accommodations for an assembly in the same sense that seats, lights, heat in the winter, air conditioning or fans are in the summer. They are not provided for the purpose of entertainment and everybody knows that who has enough sense to come in out of the rain. And everybody knows that kitchens, banquet halls, recreation rooms and such like are provided for the purpose of amusement or entertainment. Now if entertainment is a divinely ordained part of the mission of the church, then I say let congregations build and equip such things. But until someone can set forth the book, chapter and verse which shows that such is the mission of the church, then I am going to oppose it. But to show the absurdity of the matter, whoever read in some bulletin where a congregation was having a "water drinking at the church drinking fountain at 7:30 on Friday night?" Or where there would be a "fellowship" at the church rest room on Monday night? It looks like anybody

could recognize the difference between facilities provided for the accommodation of an assembly and that which is provided solely for entertainment, or social purposes.

Another trend among preachers, both young and old, is to use church bulletins for the purpose of publicizing the functions of colleges. Scarcely a week passes without certain bulletins in this area carrying reports of the various functions of Freed-Hardeman college, including efforts to raise money for it. And remember this is the school whose president, assistant to the president, and publicity director all think that majority vote in congregations without elders is the acceptable thing. The idea seems to be that if the preachers will scratch the college's back, then the college will further the "usefulness" of the preacher. Gone from the hearts of many, is the idea that the school serves as an adjunct to the home. In the minds of many, it is church-related, "our" school, to be advertised by the church and financed by it.

Another trend among preachers, young and old, is toward preaching little sermonettes with moral overtones and very little scripture thrown in. It used to be considered a mark of distinction for a gospel preacher to liberally punctuate his lessons with citing passages from the inspired record, or with expounding upon a particular passage in light of its context. Now, the style has become to read a verse, make a pretext of it, make about three points and maybe read a poem, appeal to emotions and pass this off as gospel preaching. Beware of any trend in preaching contrary to the will of Christ.

- Truth Magazine, August 1961



The Temple of Great Price

By Alan Cornett

The world had never seen anything like it. Gold, ivory, cedar, olivewood and more gold: Solomon's temple in Jerusalem. 1 Kings records: "And Solomon overlaid the inside of the house with pure gold, and he drew chains of gold across, in front of the inner sanctuary, and overlaid it with gold. And he overlaid the whole house with gold, until all the house was finished. Also the whole altar that belonged to the inner sanctuary he overlaid with gold." (6:21-22)

King David had longed to build the house for God. Because David was a man of blood, a warrior, God forbade him from doing so. But God promised that David's son Solomon would have that privilege. The new king spared no expense. From our perspective the temple was gaudy!

Solomon and his kingdom were blessed with great wealth so that they could even begin to afford such a task. This was the earthly dwelling place of the God of heaven. The highest price that mankind could possibly pay was paid.

Centuries later, the Apostle Paul pointed us to a new temple. This temple was not overlaid with gold, but made of flesh. Paul writes, "Do you not know that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you? If anyone destroys God's temple, God will destroy him. For God's temple is holy, and you are that temple." (1 Corinthians 3:16-17) What an amazing thing that God's Spirit would dwell in me, and that the God of heaven would be so aggressively protective of me!

But when I begin to compare myself to the amazing temple of Solomon I fear that I pale by

Paul explains to us that we, too, are of exceptional value, value that far exceeds gold and ivory: "Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body."

(1 Corinthians 6:19-20)

comparison. What could make me so valuable in God's eyes? Paul explains to us that we, too, are of exceptional value, value that far exceeds gold and ivory: "Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body." (1 Corinthians 6:19-20)

Bought with a price? Paul explains to the Romans when he writes that we "are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith." (3:24-25) The idea of redemption is to "buy back." The price that paid for this new temple—you and me—was Jesus and His blood. The Son of David Himself became a "man of blood," but in a dramatically different way than the son of Jesse. This blood did not keep Him from the temple, but made it possible for Him to have this dwelling place.

Paul specifically tells us that there are consequences to being the temple of God. We must flee from sexual immorality (1 Corinthians 6:18). We must avoid being yoked with things of the world, idols, that which is an affront to God (2 Corinthians 2:14-18). In other words, we must pay the price of ourselves, being a living sacrifice to God (Romans 12:1).

But nothing that I offer up can ever compare to the valuable price paid to make me a dwelling place, a place that God calls home: the blood of Jesus.

