

## LET US GROW IN THE LORD

The apostle Peter at the end of his second letter wrote these words, “but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.” Have you ever stopped just to meditate and think on these words? What does it mean to “grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord?” To grow in grace is to grow in favor with God by becoming more and more like what God wants us to be. A growth in knowledge comes by becoming better informed in the teachings of Christ. The word for “grow” in the Greek is present active which means the command given here is that one is to keep on growing in these things.

It seems that many think they are growing Christians today, but the fact is they are growing in the wrong things. There are many professed Christians who are growing in the theologies of men. Instead of growing towards God and in the knowledge of His word, unknowingly and sometimes knowingly they are growing further from God and His word. If the “church” they are a part of is growing in number, and there are many activities being offered such as special events, seminars, workshops, social programs, and community services then the assumption is they are growing closer to God and are doing those things God’s word demands.

When we consider our own spiritual growth, we must consider if the things we do and are a part of are indeed spiritual. Are we growing according to Biblical, godly standards? Many fail to consider the pattern of the New Testament and follow after the current growth trend whether it is God approved or not.

Consider some New Testament passages on growth:

The church at Thessalonica was growing in the right way, “We are bound to thank God always for you, brethren, as is fitting, because your faith grows exceedingly, and the love of every one of you abounds toward each other...which is manifest evidence of the righteous judgment of God (2 Thessalonians 1:3-5).

In Hebrews the Christians were rebuked for their lack of growth, “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...” (Hebrews 5:12-14).

Sadly enough, it seems more today fall into the category of the Hebrew Christians, rather than those at Thessalonica. Many think they are growing according to passages such as those found in 2 Peter and 2 Thessalonians, but truly they are unlearned in the “first principles of the oracles of God”. For when it comes to speaking the truth of the message, they have no knowledge.

We need to be those who are willing and will “grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.” We need those who will open their Bibles, read it, study it, and meditate upon God’s word. We need those who will speak and teach the truth of the Scripture, because they have studied it and know it. Do not let yourself and those around in the Lord’s church be destroyed for a lack of knowledge. Pick up you Bible daily and study it that you might grow in favor with Him and have a greater knowledge of His will for you and mankind.

*Andy Heavin from Sapulpa Bulletin*

## THEY HAD LEFT THEIR FIRST LOVE

The seven churches of Asia that are mentioned in the book of Revelation provide us with some important truths. While there is a letter written to each of these seven churches, the application is made through them to the whole church. Each of these letters deal with a unique situation that is worthy of our studies today. In each of the seven letters the Lord says, “I know your works.” He was aware of all their activities and deeds that they had done (cf. Psalm 139:1-12). First, the Lord made mention of their good qualities or those that were to be commended. Then, He mentioned those qualities that needed to be changed or that were condemned.

The first letter we have recorded in Revelation 2:1-7 is to the church at Ephesus. Yes indeed, Jesus knew their works, labor, and patience. There was much good in the church at Ephesus, they were working and not fainting. They were a sound church that would not allow in false teachers. Sound discipline, no doubt, was practiced among these brethren. The church also did not easily give up for they had patience and persevered, in other words they had not grown tired or given up on the work.

On the other hand, a church that seemed to be a glowing model was not without problems that needed to be overcome in order to inherit the right to “eat from the tree of life.” The Lord says, “you have left your first love.” They may have been doing good things for the church, but it was absent of love. It seems as if the enthusiasm and the love that was there in the beginning had been lost. The devotion they once had seems to have cooled off. Their Christianity now was more form, what we might say “just going through the motions.”

The Lord pleads with them to “remember...from where you have fallen.” They needed to be reminded of how it used to be, before it was too late for them. The call was for the church to repent. It was time to change and begin thinking differently again. They needed to return to their first love. Good works that are absent of love for the church and the Lord are as nothing. If the brethren did not change the Lord would remove their candlestick. In other words, He would cease to recognize them any longer. They might still have an external mark of Christianity, but on the inside they would be without light/life.

Either the church at Ephesus would cease to be Christ’s church or they would hear the word of the Lord and overcome. To the ones that overcome is the continued promise of heaven. But to those who do not overcome, they would face the chains of darkness.

May the church at Ephesus remind us of the Christian’s need to have spirit of love that never fades away. Let us not grow weary or become guilty of just going through the motions in our work and worship to the Lord. But let us abound with love for the Lord, the things of the Lord and His church.

*Andy Heavin from Sapulpa Bulletin*

## FALL GOSPEL MEETING

*“Jesus The Way....”*

**October 26-30, 2008**

***Darrick Shepherd***

**ILL**

**Sunday:** John Cody Carter (AM); Louise Dodson (PM); Millie Robertson (PM).

**Wednesday:** Millie Robertson.

Tina Pflugradt had surgery last week at Olathe Medical Center and was released on Thursday. She is recovering at home. Barbara James' Aunt is in the Hoeger house.

**Those battling cancer:** David Cole, Ledgia Campbell, Betty James and Cleo Stone. Remember these in your prayers along with: Millie Robertson and Allen Scott.

**HOME BOUND**

Allen Scott is being treated by hospice at home. Marion Stone is at home. Please remember these in your prayers and visitation.

**OUT OF TOWN**

Chris Edwards was out of town on business last week. The James' were in Columbia, MO last weekend. Debra Gragg was in Illinois on vacation last weekend. Leah Hempelmann was in Owensville, MO last weekend.

**LADIES CLASS**

The Ladies Bible class resumed last week and will continue at 10 AM each Wednesday. All ladies are encouraged to attend.

**POT LUCK DINNER**

Our monthly Pot Luck Dinner will be held this Sunday, October 5 following our AM worship. All are encouraged to come and enjoy the good food and company!

**MEN'S BUSINESS MEETING**

Our monthly Men's Business Meeting will be held next Sunday, October 12 following our AM worship. All men of the congregation are encouraged to attend.

**ATTENDANCE**

Sunday AM, 41; Sunday PM, 34; Wednesday PM, 36.

**Those To Serve**

**October 5, 2008**

**BUILDING AND COMMUNION..... Nelson**

**MORNING WORSHIP**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS..... Trent Thrasher**  
**SONG LEADER..... Joel Nelson**  
**OPENING PRAYER ..... John Dodson**  
**PRESIDE..... Chris Edwards**  
**ASSIST..... Steve Brown**  
**ASSIST..... Dave Parish**  
**CLOSING PRAYER..... Jared Nelson**

**EVENING WORSHIP**

**OPENING PRAYER ..... Jeff Nemechek**  
**CLOSING PRAYER..... John Cody Carter**  
**LORD'S SUPPER..... Chris Edwards**

**WEDNESDAY Oct. 8th**

**SONG LEADER..... Ted Thrasher**  
**INVITATION ..... George Thomas**

**WORSHIP SCHEDULE**

**Sunday**

Bible Study ..... 9:30 AM  
Morning Worship ..... 10:30 AM  
Evening Worship ..... 6:00 PM

**Wednesday**

Ladies Bible Study ..... 10:00 AM  
Bible Study ..... 7:00 PM

**Preacher: Ted J. Thrasher**

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