

Messenger of Truth

"Holding forth the Word of Life" (Phil. 2:16)

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Growth

"And so all growth that is not towards God, is growing toward decay." – George Macdonald

"Love not what you are, but what you may become." – Miguel de Cervantes

"The biggest dog has been a pup." – Joaquin Miller

"Unless you try to do something beyond what you have already mastered, you will never grow."
– Anonymous

"You don't grow up; you just keep growing." – Tom Zimmerman

One of the great challenges of life is to realize that our status changes. We certainly realize it as we grow from infancy to adulthood. But there is another aspect of who we are that does not stay the same. It is not necessarily seen as growth into adulthood, but the fruits or evidences of an internal change.

Too often when one chooses to obey the Gospel and become a Christian, they assume they have arrived. Their knowledge and maturity is now complete. There is nothing more they can do. But such is foreign to Scripture.

Peter admonished his readers: "As newborn babes, desire the pure milk of the word, that you may grow thereby" (1 Pet. 2:2). "But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ" (2 Pet. 3:18).

It can be humbling to realize that you don't know as much as you may think. The late Hugo McCord, after preaching 50 years, studying the Hebrew and the Greek, having penned a translation of the New Testament, said, "There is not a day that I pick up my Bible that I learn something new."

The problem with growth in the Christian can be illustrated with a canoe on a river. If you row against the current, you can progress, be it slowly, upstream. But if you stop rowing the current will take you swiftly downstream. So many are like that with their Christianity. When they cease trying to grow, they rapidly go in the wrong direction.

The apostle Paul admonished the young preacher Timothy: "Be diligent ("study", KJV) to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth" (2 Tim. 2:15). "But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear" (1 Pet. 3:15).

If we do not constantly strive to study and to improve, then we will find ourselves failing in handling the Scriptures properly, and unable to defend the faith to which we hold.