



# Blackfoot Church of Christ

Published by Blackfoot Church of Christ  
Blackfoot, ID

Volume 8 Number 32

August 9, 2020

## **What about Maturity?!** **Are You/We engaged in the process?**

By Bill Sexton

Are we mindful of the fact that growth is essential to the survival of any living thing? This is recognized in the material/physical realms. Just as sure this is the truth in the spiritual realm. Look at the teaching in the following verses by the inspired writer:

“Of whom we have many things to say, and hard to be uttered, seeing ye are dull of hearing. For when for the time ye ought to be teachers, ye have need that one teach you again which be the first principles of the oracles of God; and are become such as have need of milk, and not of strong meat. For every one that useth milk is unskilful in the word of righteousness: for he is a babe. 14 But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, even those who by reason of use have.” (Heb. 5:11-14).

This process is no accident, and we need to understand and appreciate the energy and effort we, each individual, must put into it to accomplish this desirable and necessary goal.

No one can do this for me, although many can and have assisted me, and I trust that I have helped a number of others achieve the same mark. Let us be aware of the NEED, and the MEANS, of spiritual growth. Let me be eager to assist others. I love to be able to help others, and I believe each should be and their life will be happier, too.

First, we see from the passage that if one doesn't grow, then they regress, go down hill, so to speak, and if this process continues death is sure to

occurs; that is the result. The passages say that one needs to be taught again that which be the first principles.

Secondly, the desirable growth is achieved only when one puts to practice that which they learn of the “first principles,” by “reason of use have their senses exercised,” they become able to discern. One is not going to learn everything prior to his/her new birth. Neither is one going to know some of the more difficult, deeper matters, till they learn the basics, and practice them. Thus it is so important that each begin to practice immediately that which one learns.

Thirdly, growth is a life-long, experience. When one ceases to learn and practice what they learn, for all practical purposes, they are DEAD! As long as one lives and has control of his/her senses, there will be things to learn. So, beloved, let us all see the need to continue to grow –by learning and practicing. Life will be much fuller, satisfying, and fruitful. Talking to others about spiritual matters is one of the greatest challenges; I believe, from my experience, is the most stimulating things to cause one to grow. In the process others will learn too, if they will listen, participate in expressing their view and looking, studying deeper matters, and the whole of God plan will be more greatly appreciated. What about you growth, brother? This maturing process can be an enjoyable time!

## **Be ye thankful!!!!**

By Bill Sexton

Col 3:12-15, Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering;<sup>13</sup> Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye.<sup>14</sup> And above all these things put on charity, which is the bond of perfectness.<sup>15</sup> And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful.

How many of us, dwell on the negative things in our life, instead of pondering the riches we have in our land and especially in Christ? Are we mindful of the good things in life or do we think I deserve to have more, be comforted more, and others have more than me, and I have been cheated, etc.

Beloved, I suggest that we are all blessed with so many wonderful things, as Americans, with the freedom, opportunities, etc. But really most of all we are blessed, as Christians, with the riches we have in Christ, regardless of what ever country we are in and what ever our situation in life may be. That is where all spiritual blessing are, of course, and the spiritual blessings are the most valuable of all (Eph. 1:3; 3:6-8).

All the material commodities we have, we will leave behind when we leave this earth (Cf. 1 Tim. 6:7). We do not know how soon our exit from here shall come, but we surely know that it is to be comparatively soon! Therefore, let us concentrate on the most valuable and lasting things we have within our power to protect.

If we have laid up our treasures where they can not be stolen, where they will neither decay (Matt. 6:19-21), our hearts can be content with less of the materials, and less physical comfort at the present time. We manifest where our treasures are by where we place the most emphasis, focus our attention, about where our heart is!

Sure we can live with less, and enjoy it. That is if we see the value of our soul, and that it is just a matter of time till we shall put off the earthly man and put on the new. Consider the Apostle Paul's evaluation.

“For we know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens” (2 Cor. 5:1).

Yes, we can and should enjoy what we have in material good while here. Also, we can wish for good healthy bodies and sound minds. But we can afford to have less of the perishables and imperfect health, if we are rich in spiritual values.

We shall make a decision, however, to count and be grateful for what we do have. Or, we shall be unhappy, complaining about what we don't have, and go through life carrying a load of baggage that makes life less enjoyable than it could/would otherwise be.

At times we need to ponder, I believe, the blessing that we have. That doesn't mean that we dismiss altogether things that are less pleasant in life. But we can be happy or sad, grateful or complaining about our station in life. The choice is our individually to make.

## Prayer Requests & Announcements

- James White is in the hospital
- Tim, Angie, and Hanna returning home this week
- Ray & Ginger will be traveling late this week
- Ross, Debbie, and Rachel will be traveling to Arkansas later this week returning latter the next week
- Ray & Ginger, as Ray deals with Alzheimer's Symptoms
- Larry, Leukemia Diagnosis
- Jaella Kreh during her pregnancy
- Keep April in your prayers as she deals with health issues
- The Christians in the Philippines
- David Finch is scheduled to preach Sunday through Wednesday next week (8/16-8/19). He is here to discuss preaching for the congregation.
  - Times: TBD

## Worship Assignments

### Today

**Song Leader** – Tom Mitchell

**Lord's Table** – Ben Palmer

### Wednesday

**Song Leader** – Tom Mitchell

**Invitation** – Ross Ward

Blackfoot Church of Christ  
370 North Shilling Ave.  
Blackfoot, Idaho 83221

### Meeting Times:

Sunday Morning Classes 10:00AM  
Sunday Morning Worship 11:00AM  
Wednesday Evening 7:30PM



[www.facebook.com @blackfootchurch](https://www.facebook.com/blackfootchurch)  
[www.blackfootchurch.com](http://www.blackfootchurch.com)