

## Grow; 2 Peter 3:17-18

- I. Growth
  - a. Physically
    - i. From the very beginning we grow
    - ii. As an infant, toddler, child, adolescent, adult – we never stop growing
    - iii. “Cartilage continues to grow until the day you die.” Arthur Perry, MD, FACS
  - b. Mentally
    - i. We continue to learn
    - ii. Sometimes we need to ‘re-learn’ or be reminded of things we have learned before
    - iii. A lot of professions have continuing education
    - iv. If you are in the Information Technology world, things change very often and you have to keep up
  - c. Spiritually
    - i. Wisdom – we learn from our experiences and change our behavior to get the results we want (God wants)
    - ii. There are two types of wisdom; worldly (not the one we want to grow in) and Godly (definitely the one we want to grow in)
  - d. 2 Peter 3:18 (ESV); But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be the glory both now and to the day of eternity. Amen.
- II. Grace
  - a. Practical application of goodwill, (*a sign of*) favor, gracious deed/gift, benefaction on the part of God and Christ <sup>1</sup>
  - b. The Gospel of salvation is the message of divine goodwill toward us
  - c. Titus 2:11–13 (ESV); <sup>11</sup> For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, <sup>12</sup> training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, <sup>13</sup> waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ,
  - d. Ephesians 2:5–10 (ESV); <sup>5</sup> even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved— <sup>6</sup> and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, <sup>7</sup> so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. <sup>8</sup> For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, <sup>9</sup> not a result of works, so that no one may boast. <sup>10</sup> For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.
  - e. Hebrews 4:3 (ESV); For we who have believed enter that rest, as he has said, “As I swore in my wrath, ‘They shall not enter my rest,’ ” although his works were finished from the foundation of the world.
  - f. Knowing His creation would rebel against Him He still created us – Why?

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<sup>1</sup> William Arndt et al., [\*A Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament and Other Early Christian Literature\*](#) (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2000), 1079.

- g. Grace is Jesus speaking up before the foundations of the Earth were laid and volunteering to be our sacrifice!
- h. “The Grace of God appeared,” “by Grace you (we) have been saved”

III. Knowledge

- a. Philippians 3:8 (ESV); Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ
- b. Paul knew (had a Deep abiding knowledge and relationship with) Christ
  - i. Paul was ‘ravaging’ the church – arresting Christians and having them thrown in jail
  - ii. He was on his way to Damascus with letters from the High Priest to do the same
  - iii. Acts 26:9–10 (ESV); <sup>9</sup> “I myself was convinced that I ought to do many things in opposing the name of Jesus of Nazareth. <sup>10</sup> And I did so in Jerusalem. I not only locked up many of the saints in prison after receiving authority from the chief priests, but when they were put to death I cast my vote against them.
  - iv. In Acts 7 he was likely the leader of the group who stoned Stephen – “laid down their garments” (Acts 7:58, 22:20)
  - v. Acts 9:17–18 (ESV); <sup>17</sup> So Ananias departed and entered the house. And laying his hands on him he said, “Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus who appeared to you on the road by which you came has sent me so that you may regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit.” <sup>18</sup> And immediately something like scales fell from his eyes, and he regained his sight. Then he rose and was baptized;
  - vi. In my estimation, just as the Spirit gave the Apostles miraculous knowledge of the Spiritual Kingdom on the day of Pentecost, so did the Spirit for Paul
  - vii. 1 Corinthians 11:23 (ESV); For **I received from the Lord** what I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took bread,
- c. We have this same knowledge
  - i. Men, moved by the Holy Spirit, wrote down this very same knowledge for us
  - ii. 2 Peter 1:19–21 (ESV); <sup>19</sup> And we have the prophetic word more fully confirmed, to which you will do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts, <sup>20</sup> knowing this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture comes from someone’s own interpretation. <sup>21</sup> For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.
- d. Everything else is second to knowing the Scriptures
  - i. 2 Peter 1:3 (ESV); His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us to his own glory and excellence,
  - ii. Many young adults, when they graduate from high school and get out on their own, stop studying and worshiping God
  - iii. They never made the faith of God their own – they relied on the faith of their parents

- iv. Graduation is not the end of your (our) quest for knowledge, nor should it be the end of our relationship with Jesus
    - v. There is only one way to establish your faith – “the surpassing worth of knowing Christ”
    - vi. Romans 10:17 (ESV); So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.
  - e. We must have a deep abiding knowledge of Christ
- IV. Grow
  - a. Peter admonishes us to grow – not physically or mentally, but spiritually
  - b. To grab hold of the grace (divine favor, the message of the Gospel) that He offers us
  - c. To create a relationship with Jesus and grow, mature, become old and grey with Him