“In Our Lord The Growth, To Him The Glory”

2 Peter 3:18 Sunday December 31, 2023

## INTRODUCTION READ 2 Peter 3:1-18  [Pew Bible pg. 958]

Jesus The Lord . . . Life . . . Love God the Father . . . Faith . . . Fellowship

“THESE are the last words of an old man . . .” Alexander MacLaren

1. Principles for Spiritual Growth in the Christian Life 3:11-16
2. Looking For the Future the Lord God Has Promised 3:11-13
3. Learning from the Wisdom the Lord God Has Written 3:14-16

It appears, then, that our text is adapted to be a heavenly remedy for certain diseases to which even students of Scripture are exposed; and I am persuaded it may serve also as a most blessed directory to us through the whole of the coming year. Charles Spurgeon

1. Practices for Spiritual Growth in the Christian Life 3:17-18

Potential Impediment In The Christian Life 3:17

1. Personal Requirement for The Christian Life “grow”

 Present Active Imperative who is helping us grow

 RESPONSIBILITIES who are we helping to grow

 “long obedience in the same direction. steady commitment of slow

 progress over the longhaul” Alistair Begg

“A Divine Instruction with Special Direction”

obedience to this given command in our lives with the many temptations of so many other things we want to do in our lives . . .

READ First Corinthians 3:6-7; Ephesians 4:14-16; Colossians 2:19; First Peter 2:1-3

1. Practical Commitment of The Christian Life RESOURCES

First, Practical Commitment In Our Need for His Grace

“grow in the grace . . . of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ” READ 1:2-3

 Divine Enablement for Every Believer First Corinthians 15:10-11

 Divine Encouragement for Every Believer 2 Corinthians 12:9-10

The Living Word . . . Prayer Life [throne of grace] . . . Body Life [gracious gifts]

dependence. . . repentance. . . obedience. . . reverence. . . service all His grace

 First Peter 5:5, 10

“The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.” [2 Thessalonians 3:18](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=2%20Thessalonians%203%3A18&version=NASB)

“May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ *be* with you.” [1 Thessalonians 5:28](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1%20Thessalonians%205%3A28&version=NASB)

“You therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus.” [2 Timothy 2:1](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=2%20Timothy%202%3A1&version=NASB)

“The grace of the Lord Jesus be with all. Amen.” [Revelation 22:21](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Revelation%2022%3A21&version=NASB)

Second, Practical Commitment In Our Knowledge of The Lord

 “grow . . . knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ . . .”

 Divine Accomplishment for Any Christian READ John 1:14-18

 Divine Assignment for Any Christian READ John 14:21-26

 READ, STUDY, LEARN, WALK, ABIDE, BELIEVE

 His Promises, His Teachings, His Ways, His Sufferings, His Warnings

1. Principal Achievement for Christian Growth REASONS

“A Divine Intention with Eternal Focus”

“To Him *be* the glory, both now and to the day of eternity. Amen.”

 Lord and Savior Jesus Christ READ First Peter 4:10-11

CONCLUSION  In Our Lord The Growth, To Him The Glory

Personal Requirement . . . Practical Commitment . . . Principal Achievement

1. Defining How God is causing growth not merely Thinking about Growth

 First Peter 2:1-3 “long for the pure milk of the word,

 so that by it you may grow . . .”

1. Discerning What God is Doing not merely Experiencing What is Happening

 Philippians 2:12-13 “for it is God who is at work in you, both

 to desire and to work for *His* good pleasure.”

1. Doing what God’s Word says not merely knowing that God’s Word Speaks

 James 1:22-25 “But prove yourselves doers of the word, and not just

 hearers who deceive themselves.”

1. Desiring What God’s Word produces not merely satisfying our appetites

 1 Timothy 4:6 “you will be a good servant of Christ

 Jesus, *constantly* nourished on the words of the faith

 and of the good doctrine which you have been following.

Oh! if we as a congregation and as a Church grew in grace more; if we were stronger in faith, mightier in prayer, more fervent in heart, more holy in life, who can tell how much we might effect for our age. Men who walk but lightly, leave but faint steps; but men who tread with the tramp of Roman soldiers stamp their foot-prints on the sands of time, never to be erased. So let us live, that in our day and in after days the world may be the better, and Christ’s Church more prosperous for our having lived. For this reason, if for no other, let us grow in grace. Charles Spurgeon