

WEST COLUMBIA CHURCH OF CHRIST



“every disciple that is perfect shall be as his master.” Luke 6:40b

HEALTHY SOULS

The apostle Peter was a mature elder in the church when he wrote his first epistle, and with it he brought all of his experiences into his explanation of the Christian life as God would have it. Perhaps the most important principle he stresses throughout this entire writing is the need for maturity in the lives of individual Christians. This oft-mentioned term is usually left to die when any action is required, but Peter spoke of it as a reality which all can achieve if they will follow the procedure given in 1 Peter 2:2:

“As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby.”

The first important step in maturing is that of desire. In the same way that a newborn infant desires his mother’s milk, Christians should want to learn more concerning spiritual matters. “Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled.” But, a Christian will starve to death spiritually if he or she lacks a desire for spiritual food. The desire to grow ever closer to God, our Savior, should not be forced but should come naturally from our love for Him and our gratitude for the salvation of our souls.

The second step in the maturing process involves our choice of food. No one would consider it right to feed a baby sugar and corn flakes steadily—even if the child desired such. Loving parents will see that their child is properly fed, receiving the nutrients that a growing body needs. In the process of spiritual growth, the same principle applies. While there are some who desire a sugary, watered-down version of the gospel (2 Tim. 4:3-4), they should not receive it because it will destroy their souls (Gal. 1:6-9). Only the inspired word of God has all of the spiritual nutrients that can properly provide for the souls of men (2 Pet. 1:3; 2 Tim. 3:16-17). Anything less than the unadulterated word of God is neglecting the spiritual health of the individual. The desire is to be for the word of God and not for man’s religions (Matt. 15:9).

The third step taken in the maturing process of a Christian is that of growth. After desiring the word and learning from the study of it (2 Tim. 2:15), one will grow closer to God (Jas. 4:8), closer to being Christ-like (Gal.2:20), closer to other Christians (Rom.12:10) and closer to heaven (Matt. 6:33; 2 Tim.4:8). The maturation process is manifested in a life filled with selfless actions that are a result of living for Christ.

This growth process that Peter speaks of is not something that is limited to novices or to those newly born in the faith. It is for all who wish to live a faithful life unto God (Rev. 2:10). When one ceases to grow, he begins to decay. In Christianity, one must apply himself to the truth of God’s word to grow closer to the Creator and Savior of mankind. To decay, simply do nothing.

- Kevin Rhodes, Preacher, Granbury Street Church of Christ, Cleburne, Texas

EYES ON HEAVEN IN 2011

THE BULLETIN—VOLUME 37, NUMBER 19 May 8, 2011

SERMONS THIS SUNDAY:

AM: Ed Kelleher

PM: Ed Kelleher

OUR PART IN CHURCH GROWTH

GOD’S CHOICES

**COME JOIN US THIS
NEW YEAR!**

*“Whose adorning let it not be that outward adorning ...
But let it be the hidden man of the heart, in that which is not corruptible,
even the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit,
which is in the sight of God of great price.” - 1 Peter 3:3,4*

EYES ON HEAVEN IN 2011

A Warm Welcome awaits you at all our services. Come see!

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SERVICES

Sunday 10 AM Bible Study
Sunday 11 AM, 6 PM Assembly
Wednesday 7 PM Bible Study
Office Phone (803) 794-5320
Nursery provided

Bible Classes for all ages

LADIES CLASS

To be announced

EVANGELIST

BULLETIN EDITOR

Ed Kelleher

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“PRAY FOR ONE ANOTHER” - James 5:16

- **REMEMBER IN PRAYER:** *Margaret Herring, Lamar Reeves, Elma Berrier and Phyllis Johnson.*
- **Remember those who have suffered loss in recent tornados.**
- **Deborah Stoyk** has been moved to hospice care at Agape Care on Leaphart Road.
- **Ryan Sheppard** has gone to Fort Hood Texas, preparing to deploy to Iraq.
- **Harvey Allen** is doing much better after his heart attack and has been cleared to go back to work.
- Also, our brother **Frank Allen** is in Missouri with his mother who is quite ill.
- Congratulations to **Courtney Gamble** who graduated with honors from USC.
- Relief for **tornado victims** may be sent to the elders:

Shades Mountain Church of Christ, 959 Alford Ave, Birmingham, AL 35226

“I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men;” - 1 Timothy 2:1

“AND THEY CONTINUED STEADFASTLY” - Acts 2:42

- We've posted a **new building cleanup schedule** with weekly slots to better accommodate folks who aren't here an entire month.
- **Bible Study at Church Building, Saturdays 10 am**, all are invited. An informal session around a table with everyone using their bibles and Strong's Concordances.

“But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.” - Hebrews 5:14

EYES ON HEAVEN IN 2011

UNBELIEF OF MOSES AND AARON

On one occasion, Moses turned his confidence from God to self. The people were thirsty in their journey. God commanded Moses to assemble the people and to speak to the rock that it bring forth its water (**Num. 20:8**). Moses and Aaron assembled the people before the rock, but he did not speak to the rock, but to the people: **"Hear now, ye rebels; must we fetch you water out of this rock?" (Num. 20:10).** "Must we" — thus leaving God out of the transaction.

Then God said to Moses and Aaron, **"Because ye believed me not, to sanctify me in the eyes of the children of Israel, therefore ye shall not bring this congregation into the land which I have given them" (Num 20:12).**

Moses had no more doubt then of the existence of God than he had any other time. Yet, God says he and Aaron did not believe in Him. They did not have sufficient confidence in God to do what He said, but followed their own way; and no man does that except through lack of faith in God.

R. L. Whiteside, 1869-1951, Gospel preacher
(Do you believe in God?)

KEEP ASKING

When the Lord told Abraham He was about to destroy Sodom and Gomorrah, Abraham asked the Lord if He would spare Sodom if there were 50 righteous people living there. The Lord said "No!" Then Abraham asked the same question of 45, 40, 30, 20 and finally 10. So Abraham made the same basic request 6 times (Gen. 23:33).

Now consider Lot, Abraham's nephew living in Sodom. Two angels came to Sodom in the evening while Lot was sitting at the gate. Lot bowed and invited them to spend the night in his home. They refused, saying they would spend the night in the square. So Lot urged them strongly, and they entered his house, Gen. 19:1-3.

Jesus taught that we should ASK, SEEK and KNOCK (Matt. 7:7-11). This suggests that we need to be persistent. It implies that God does not mind, and in fact prefers to hear our insistent plea. Now this is not senseless repetition condemned by Jesus in Matthew 6:7-8, but rather the attitude of heart that tells the Lord we are serious about our request. Abraham humbly and methodically increased the ante. Lot was at first turned down by the angels, and then they went with him - subsequently saving him.

So if you are serious about something it is ok to keep putting that request before the throne of God. Keep asking!

- **Rick Laing**, Preacher Highland Village church of Christ, Austin Texas

“Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you: For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened.

Or what man is there of you, whom if his son ask bread, will he give him a stone? Or if he ask a fish, will he give him a serpent? If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children, how much more shall your Father which is in heaven give good things to them that ask him?” - Matthew 7:7-11

EYES ON HEAVEN IN 2011

Books of the Old Testament—Good to memorize them!

Genesis	1 Kings	Ecclesiastes	Obadiah
Exodus	2 Kings	Song of Solomon	Jonah
Leviticus	1 Chronicles	Isaiah	Micah
Numbers	2 Chronicles	Jeremiah	Nahum
Deuteronomy	Ezra	Lamentations	Habakkuk
Joshua	Nehemiah	Ezekiel	Zephaniah
Judges	Esther	Daniel	Haggai
Ruth	Job	Hosea	Zechariah
1 Samuel	Psalms	Joel	Malachi
2 Samuel	Proverbs	Amos	