



Lively Stones

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Holding forth the word of life

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Grow in Grace

“But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and for ever. Amen.” (2 Peter 3:18)

Our Church theme for 2008 is *Towards a Growing and Fruit-bearing Christian Life*. Hence, we had selected a set of memory verses along this theme of *The Growing Christian* to help church members to grow in our Christian life.

How do we grow in our Christian life?

The apostle Peter put it aptly in his concluding challenge to the believers who were scattered by religious persecutions in 2 Peter 3:18: *“But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ!”*

To grow in grace is a maturing process. It means to grow in our faith in Christ daily. *“For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God.”* (Eph. 2:8) In order for one to grow in grace, one must be saved by grace through faith. Our walk in Christ begins with our personal salvation in Christ. Jesus says, *“Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.”* (Jn. 3:3) Hence, we must be born again before we can talk about growing in our Christian life. My dear readers, are you born again? This is the most fundamental issue in the world today! It is not about economic growth; it is not about political stability, neither is it about religious harmony; it is about our personal salvation in Christ. Moses says, *“The days of our years are three score years and ten; and if by reason of strength they be four score years, yet is their strength, labour and sorrow; for it is soon cut off, and we fly away.”* (Ps. 90:10) Life is short, death is sure, but after death – the judgement - *“And it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment.”* (Hebrews 9:27)! It would seem ironical that men should grow and mature to a point of death? Well, we have a “sin” problem which is worst than cancer. Because of our sins, we have to die. At Christmas time, God sent His only begotten Son to be born into this sinful in order that one day He may die for our sins. That was exactly what our Lord and Saviour did two thousand years ago – yes, He died for our sins in order that we may live.

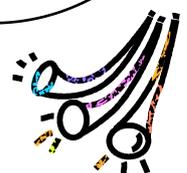
How do we grow in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ?

In His high priestly prayer, Jesus prayed for us, *“Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.”* (John 17:17) The apostle Paul instructs the Thessalonians thus, *“For this is the will of God, even your sanctification, that ye should abstain from fornication.”* (1 Thessalonians 4:3) God’s will for His people is to live holy life. A fruit-bearing Christian life is born out of holy living. Our holiness is manifested in the fruit of the Spirit: *“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.”* (Gal. 5:22-23) What is sin? *“Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law.”* (1 John 3:4) No wonder when one’s life manifests the fruit of the Spirit, *“against such there is no law”!*

In order to grow in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, one must be filled with the Holy Spirit, and then bear the fruit of the Spirit. A fruit-bearing Christian life begins with sanctification. Sanctification is separation from sins, and separation to God. Our Sunday School students often sing: *“The world behind me, the cross before me, no turning back, no turning back!”* True saving grace is put into practise when one comes to our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ in faith and true repentance. Faith is *Forsaking All I Take Him!* Faith is taking God at His infallible and inerrant words – the Bible. Faith offers us a vision of the heavenly future in Christ. Our end in mind is to live the legacy of Christ, and to leave a legacy for Christ. Our Lord Jesus Christ has left us a legacy to live for Him, and we are to leave behind a legacy of Christ for others to live. This is the outcome of knowing Christ. Jesus says,

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General Superintendent's Address



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“Ye shall know them by their fruits.” (Matthew 7:16) Only one life, ‘twill soon be past, only what’s done for Jesus will last.

*Only one life, yes only one, Soon will its fleeting hours be done;
Then, in 'that day' my Lord to meet, And stand before His Judgment seat;
Only one life, 'twill soon be past, Only what's done for Christ will last.*

*Only one life, the still small voice, Gently pleads for a better choice
Bidding me selfish aims to leave, And to God's holy will to cleave;
Only one life, 'twill soon be past, Only what's done for Christ will last.*

*Only one life, a few brief years, Each with its burdens, hopes, and fears;
Each with its days I must fulfil, living for self or in His will;
Only one life, 'twill soon be past, Only what's done for Christ will last.*

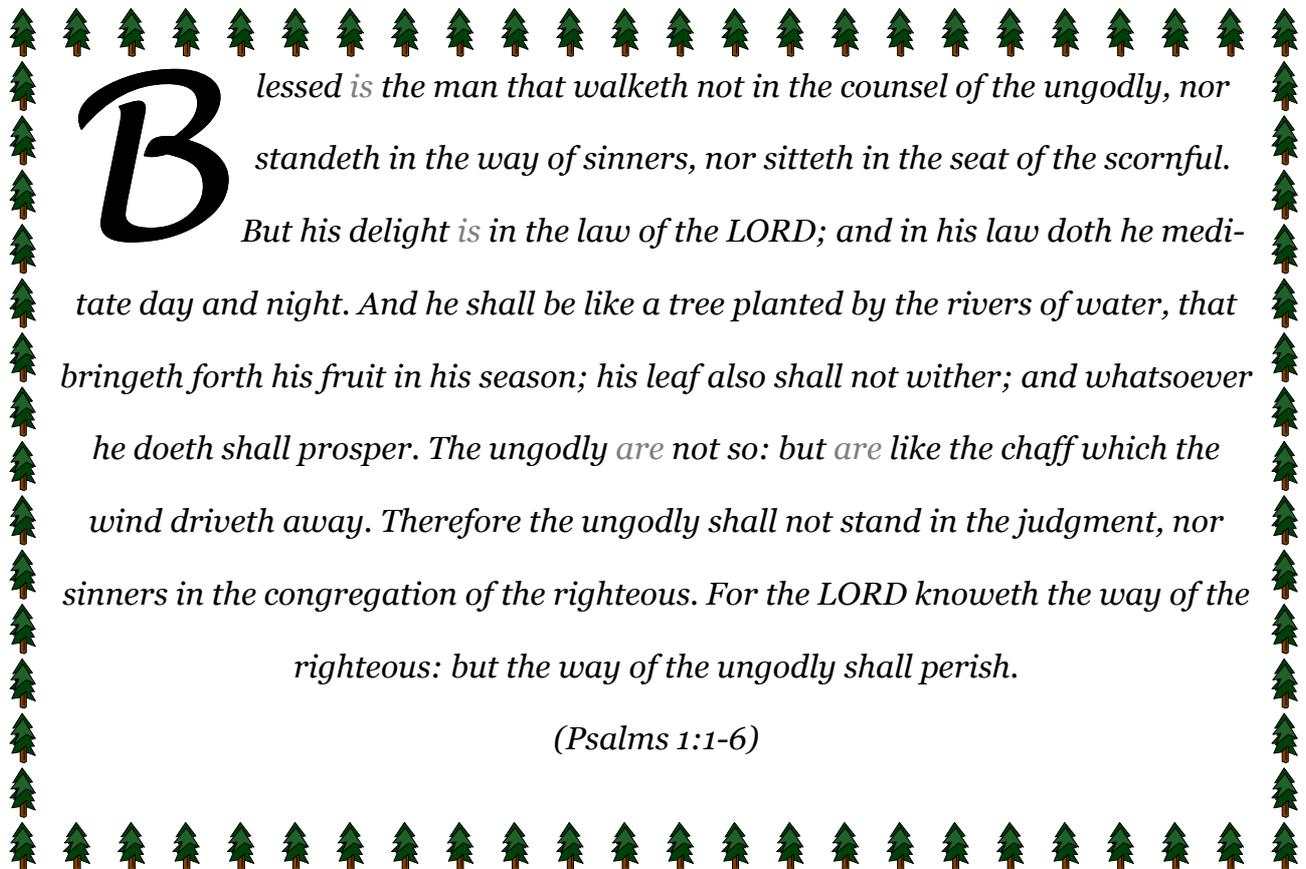
- Author Unknown

God has given us various means of grace to grow in grace. This new year, let us engage ourselves consistently to partake of God’s means of grace in the Word, in Prayers, in Fellowship, in Worship, and in Witnessing (evangelism)! The more zealously we engage ourselves in these means of grace, the more we will grow in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

What is the ultimate purpose of growing in grace?

The apostle Peter says: “To him be glory both now and for ever. Amen.” (2 Peter 3:18) What is the chief end of man? To glorify Him and to enjoy Him forever. Hence, **Towards a Growing and Fruit-bearing Christian Life** is a very appropriate theme for the church and our Sunday School as well. Let us strive to grow in grace for the glory of God in 2008. May this New Year bring new resolve for all to live holy life and to grow in the fruit of the Spirit. Amen.

Yours in Christ,
Elder Sherman Ong
General Superintendent
Life Bible-Presbyterian Church Sunday School



Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful. But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night. And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper. The ungodly are not so: but are like the chaff which the wind driveth away. Therefore the ungodly shall not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous. For the LORD knoweth the way of the righteous: but the way of the ungodly shall perish.

(Psalms 1:1-6)



Announcement

Today is Staff Dedication Sunday. All Sunday School staff are to attend the dedication at the 10:45 am worship.