

“Maturing as a Christian-Part One”

Dan. 5:22-31

Introduction

- I. If God “weighed us in the balances”, what would be the verdict?
- II. Christians should constantly be working to improve in areas of deficiency.
- III. What are some ideas to promote maturation?

Discussion

- I. Become more spiritually inclined
 - A. We need clean hearts (Phil. 4:8).
 - B. Why did God send the flood (Gen. 6:5)?
 - C. Christians should be actively developing our thoughts and mindsets (2 Cor. 10:5; Col. 3:1-2; Psm. 19:14).
- II. Be faithful
 - A. Attendance should be regular (Heb. 10:25; Rev. 2:10; 2 Tim. 4:6-8).
 - B. A preacher was once asked to define "Faithful Attendance at Worship," and this was his reply: "If your car started one out of three times, would you consider it faithful? If the paperboy skipped Thursdays and Sundays, would they be missed? If you didn't show up at work two or three times a week, would your boss call you faithful? If your refrigerator quit a few days now and then, would you excuse it and say, 'Oh, well, it works most of the time.' If your water heater greets you with cold water one or two mornings a week while you are in the shower, would it be faithful? If you miss several mortgage payments in a year's time, would your mortgage holder be pleased? If you miss worship and attend meetings only often enough to show you're interested, but not often enough to get involved, are you faithful?" (From Illustrations Unlimited, by James S. Hewett, p. 87, slightly adapted).
 - C. Christians need to interact with one another for growth (Prov. 27:17; Eph. 4:16).
- III. Be a Bible student
 - A. Christians need spiritual nourishment (Matt. 4:4).
 - B. Scriptures teach us how to be right with God (Psm. 1:1-3; 19:11; James 1:25).
- IV. Love the brethren
 - A. Christians are commanded to love one another (1 Pet. 1:22; 4:8; Col. 3:14).
 - B. We can show our love by being interested in helping (Matt. 25:41-46).
 - C. We need to love as Christ loved (John 13:34-35; 1 John 3:16).
- V. Learn to use money wisely
 - A. We need to understand Scriptural reasons for money (Eph. 4:28; 1 Cor. 16:2).
 - B. The love of money is destructive (Luke 8:14; 1 Tim. 6:6-10).
 - C. Jesus warned of “mammon” (Matt. 6:24; cf. Prov. 23:4-5).

Conclusion

- I. Spiritual maturation is something for each Christian to strive.
- II. Incorporating certain activities can certainly aid in that development.