

## **“GROWING IN THE KNOWLEDGE OF CHRIST”**

### **2 PETER 2:18**

**INTRO:** Recently we began a series entitled **“AN ADMONITION FOR SPIRITUAL GROWTH”** taken from 2 Peter 3:17,18. Scripturally speaking, this admonition is given to us through the Apostle Peter so as to keep us from getting lured away into false doctrine, in general, and into the misunderstanding of the second coming of Christ specifically. In previous studies, we noted the significance in growing in the understanding of the **GRACE OF GOD**. As you may recall, we focused on **THE SAVING GRACE, THE SUSTAINING GRACE, AND THE SERVING GRACE OF GOD**. Today we are going to conclude our study by focusing on **GROWING IN THE KNOWLEDGE OF JESUS CHRIST**.

**OBSERVATION:** It is a blessing of the highest degree to see a lost sinner come to faith in Jesus Christ and, therefore, be **BORN AGAIN**. However, it is sad and even a shame to see a Christian who does not grow spiritually.

### **THREE QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER**

**QUESTION ONE: WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO GROW IN THE KNOWLEDGE OF JESUS CHRIST? It means to come to know him personally through trusting Him as Savior and then developing a closer relationship with Him in spiritual understanding, maturity, and service.**

**QUESTION TWO: WHAT HAPPENS WHEN WE GROW IN THE KNOWLEDGE OF JESUS CHRIST?**

- 1) Initially, we become a child of God and a member of Christ’s body, the church.**
- 2) Progressively, we become stronger in the Lord spiritually, develop a closer relationship with Him personally, produce fruit for His glory regularly and submit to His Lordship continuously.**

**QUESTION THREE: WHAT HAPPENS IF WE DO NOT GROW IN THE KNOWLEDGE OF JESUS CHRIST AFTER INITIAL SALVATION?**

- 1) We will remain spiritual babes and live as carnal Christians.**
- 2) We will be led into spiritual error, doctrinal impurity, and personal sin.**
- 3) We will bring dishonor and disgrace to the name of the Lord.**
- 4) We will stand ashamed at the Judgment Seat of Christ.**

### **AN ADMONITION**

**IT IS SPIRITUALLY SIGNIFICANT THAT EACH CHRISTIAN UNDERSTANDS, DESIRES, AND GROWS IN THE KNOWLEDGE OF CHRIST.**

### **AN EXPLANATION**

**THE WORD “GROW” IN THE TEXT MEANS “TO ENLARGE OR INCREASE CONTINUALLY.” THE FACT IS, THE CHRISTIAN SHOULD MAKE IT A HABIT TO ENLARGE AND INCREASE IN UNDERSTANDING CHRIST DAILY...THE MORE WE GROW IN THE KNOWLEDGE OF CHRIST DAILY, THE LESS WE WILL STRAY FROM CHRIST SPIRITUALLY.**

**HOW IS YOUR GROWTH IN THE KNOWLEDGE OF JESUS CHRIST?**

### **THE COMPONENTS OF GROWING IN THE KNOWLEDGE OF CHRIST**

#### **I. THE PERSONAL KNOWLEDGE OF JESUS CHRIST**

**-INITIAL KNOWLEDGE OF JESUS CHRIST AS SAVIOR-**

**JOHN 17:3; MATTHEW 7:21-23**

**THIS IS OUR RESPONSIBILITY**

## **II. THE PROGRESSIVE KNOWLEDGE OF JESUS CHRIST**

**-INTENSIFYING KNOWLEDGE OF JESUS CHRIST AS LORD-  
PHILIPPIANS 3:7-10**

**THIS IS OUR RESPONSIBILITY**

OBSERVE VERSE 8:

Paul was willing to give up EVERYTHING HE HAD in order to come to the “EXCELLENCY OF THE KNOWLEDGE OF CHRIST.” He did not just want to have an INTELLECTUAL KNOWLEDGE of Christ, but rather a PERSONAL, EXPERIENTIAL KNOWLEDGE OF CHRIST. This was possible for Paul, and it is possible for us as true believers in Christ because Jesus Christ actually lives within us. Note: Galatians 2:20 and Colossians 1:27.

OBSERVE VERSE 10:

Paul was expressing that he wanted to gain a DEEPER AND MORE INTIMATE KNOWLEDGE OF JESUS CHRIST by KNOWING (EXPERIENCING):

- The Power of Christ’s Resurrection
- The Fellowship of Christ’s Sufferings
- The Conformity unto Christ’s Death

**HOW CAN WE GROW PROGRESSIVELY IN THE KNOWLEDGE OF CHRIST?**

- A. By Feeding on God’s Word Regularly
- B. By Praying to God Regularly
- C. By Obeying God Regularly
- D. By Fellowshiping with God’s People Regularly
- E. By Attending Church Regularly
- F. By Committing to Sound Doctrine Regularly
- G. By Separating from Sin and Sinful Situations Regularly

## **III. THE PROSPECTIVE KNOWLEDGE OF JESUS CHRIST**

**-INFALLABLE KNOWLEDGE OF JESUS CHRIST AS GOD-  
1 CORINTHIANS 12:13; 1 JOHN 3:2**

**THIS IS GOD’S RESPONSIBILITY**

**(THIS WILL RESULT IN THE HIGHEST OF ALL PRAISE AND WORSHIP POSSIBLE UNTO THE LORD  
– REVELATION 4 AND 5)**

### **LESSON AND APPLICATION**

From the point at which we come to know Christ personally at salvation until we see Christ in His glory in Heaven, He desires that we GROW IN OUR KNOWLEDGE OF HIM. SUCH WILL BRING ULTIMATE BLESSING, SERVICE AND REWARD. HOW IS YOUR GROWTH IN THE KNOWLEDGE OF JESUS CHRIST COMING ALONG?