

Holiness by JC Ryle

Growth – Chapter 6

“Grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.” – 2 Peter 3:18

- Review Chapter 5 The Cost
- Two questions a true Christian should consider:
 - Do we grow spiritually?
 - Do we make progress in our religion?
- Growth in grace is an essential part of true holiness
- Growth in grace is does not mean a growth in Justification
 - We are “complete in Christ” (Colossians 2:10)
- God’s Word Instructs Us on the Basis of our Growth
 - The Solid Foundation of His Word (Matthew 7:24-27)

“Therefore everyone who hears these words of Mine and acts on them, may be compared to the wise man who builds his house on the rock. And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and slammed against that house; and it did not fall, for it had been founded on the rock. Everyone who hears these words of mine and does not act on them, will be like the foolish man who builds his house on the sand. The rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and slammed against that house, and it fell – and great was its fall.”

Three areas of Discussion on Christian Growth

- The Reality of Religious Growth
- The Marks of Religious Growth
- The Means of Religious Growth

The Reality of Religious Growth

- Biblical Grounds for Growth

- *“Grow in Grace...”* 2 Peter 3:18
- *“We beseech you, as you have received of us how you ought to walk and please God, so that you would abound more and more.”* 1 Thessalonians 4:1
- *“Increasing in the knowledge of God”* Colossians 1:10
- *“ I pray that your love may abound more and more.”* Philippians 1:9

- Personal Grounds for Growth

- Desire to move from a “weak” faith to a “strong” faith
- Desire to become a “father” in the faith instead of a “new born babe” or “little Children”

The Reality of Religious Growth

- Growth in Grace is the best evidence of spiritual health and prosperity
- Growth in Grace is a means of being happy in our religion
- Growth in Grace is the secret of our usefulness to others
- Growth in Grace pleases God
- Growth in Grace is a thing for which believers are *accountable*

The Marks of Religious Growth

- Marks of Growth in Grace:
 - Increased Humility
 - Increased faith and love towards our Lord Jesus Christ
 - Increased holiness of life and conversation
 - Increased spirituality of taste and mind
 - Increase of charity
 - Increased zeal and diligence in trying to do good to souls

The Means of Religious Growth

- “Growth in Grace is bound up with the use of means within the reach of all believers, and as a general rule growing souls are what they are because they use these means” J.C. Ryle
- These means to growth in grace are:
 - Private means of grace; private prayer, private reading of the Scriptures, and private meditation and self-examination
 - Public use of the means of grace; church attendance, hearing the Word preached, uniting with God’s people in public prayer, and participating in the Lord’s supper
 - Watchfulness over our conduct in the little matters of life
 - Caution about the company we keep and the friendships we form
 - Regular and habitual communion with the Lord Jesus

An Appeal

- To those who know nothing about growth in grace
 - Time is slipping away; Death and Judgement is getting nearer
 - There is yet hope!
- To those who ought to know something of growth in grace
 - Without growth you will never rejoice in the Lord; *“Rejoice in the Lord always, again I say rejoice!”* (Philippians 4:4)
 - Find out this day the reason for your lack of growth
 - Never, never be content if your soul does not grow
- To those who are really growing in grace
 - Go Forward! Go On!
 - **None of us are in danger of being too good**
 - Don't be surprised if we have to go through much trial and affliction in this world

In Conclusion

- In Religion, are you making progress?
- Do you Grow?

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- In Religion, are you making progress?
- Do you Grow?

“He who offers a sacrifice of thanksgiving honors Me; And to him who orders his way aright I shall show the salvation of God.” Psalm 50:23