

Life In The Body

News and Notes for the :
Shelbyville
Church of Christ

August 6, 2017

Becoming

The famous actor Gregory Peck was once standing in line with a friend, waiting for a table in a crowded Los Angeles restaurant. They had been waiting for some time, the diners seemed to be taking their time eating and new tables weren't opening up very fast. They weren't even that close to the front of the line. Peck's friend became impatient, and he said to Gregory Peck, "Why don't you tell the maitre d' who you are?"

Gregory Peck responded, "No, if you have to tell them who you are, then you aren't."

There's a great deal of wisdom in that statement. There's a big difference in who we think we are, who others think we are, and who we really are. Someone has well said that, "Reputation is who others think we are. Character is who we really are." As Christians, we ought to be more concerned with character than with reputation. Christianity is more than just knowing the right facts. It's more than going through the right motions. It begins in the heart; it's who we are.

There is a continual process of growing and adding Christ-like virtues to our lives. Peter wrote, "Add to your faith virtue, to virtue knowledge, to knowledge self-control, to self-control perseverance, to perseverance brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness love." (2 Peter 1:5-8). We never stop "becoming"; it's an ongoing pro-

cess. There's always something positive to add to our lives, always something negative to try to get rid of.

We have different ways of measuring growth. When Sueanne and I would take our children to see the pediatrician, the nurse would always check their height and weight. Then that information was written onto a chart that gave us a picture of how they were growing. When we get to be adults, we measure our growth by whether or not we can fit into last year's pants.

But how does a person measure his growth in Christianity? In Ephesians 4:15-16, Paul says, "...but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into him who is the head -- Christ -- from whom the whole body...causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love." Paul says that it's time for us to grow up, it's time for us to mature. But what is the goal of our growth? Jesus Christ is!

My favorite picture of the growth of Christianity is found in 2 Corinthians 3:18: "But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord." Paul says it's as if we're holding a mirror in our left hand, and a picture of Christ in our right hand. Now when we look in the mirror and see our reflection, and we then we look at Christ, they don't look much alike. But every day as we mature, we grow up, we become more like Christ, striving for the day when we look in the mirror and see the reflection of Jesus Christ.

Knowledge, conduct, and character must always go together. We learn God's will so that we might obey it; and in obeying it, we serve him and grow in Christian character. While none of us is perfectly balanced in these three areas, we ought to strive for that balance.

May God bless you as you seek to "know" His will better, "do" more in service to Him, and "become" more like Jesus Christ!

— Alan Smith

Create A Thirst

— Smithville church

— selected

Anniversary : Mike & Madonna August 10

NEXT WEEK : (**August 13, 2017**)

Song Leader : **Stan**

Scripture Reader : **Jonathan**

Table & Announcements : **Darrell**

Prayer list :

Prayer:

Don't give God instructions - just report for duty!

Brenda Stevens : As a result of Brenda's tests she was prescribed new pain medications, but they are not yet giving her much relief. They can only wait for the fractures to heal.

Megan Nichols : Megan's condition remains largely unchanged. She will get the results of her tests on Tuesday.

Jannetta Calvert : Remains basically the same. She is dealing with pain, but has a positive attitude. She enjoys visitors. Her in room 305 at the Heritage Manor on 6th St. in Pana

Rosanne: Rose had the surgery to remove her bladder stones. The surgery went very well.

Mindy Stevens : Due to an immune system issue, having significant problems with infections in organ systems and mono.

Those with ongoing need of prayer :

Those with age related issues :

Ruby, Doris, Mary Smith, Marg, Pete & Hazel, Betty, Francis

Other members with ongoing issues :

Madonna : Madonna's chemo will continue indefinitely.

Glenda Hyneman : Improving, but issues remain / surgery

Jerry Rankin : Heart Issues

Butch Reynolds : Heart condition and back issues

Ernie Wasson : He is having on going problems with strokes,

Dan Luidhardt : Wayne's friend is suffering from kidney failure due to diabetes. Stabilized, but remains an ongoing problem.

*** Each day as you pray for those on this list,
always include our congregation and her elders.**

*Visitors are always welcomed.
We invite you to visit our assemblies.*

Schedule of Services :

Sunday Morning : Bible Study 9:30 a.m.
Worship 10:20 a.m.

Sunday Evening : Worship 6:00 p.m.

Wednesday : Bible Study 7:00 p.m.

Ya'll Come !