

# From The Pulpit

by Rev. Donald M. Clark

GROW UP! GROW IN!

Text: "But Grow in Grace and in the Knowledge of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him Be Glory Both Now and Forever." II Pet. 3:18.

The words of the text must be regarded as St. Peter's "last words" insofar as they are recorded in Holy Scripture. They concern "growing up," or rather "growing in." As the apostle's last words they deserve special notice.

It is a common feature of living things that they grow--although the speed and nature of their growth vary immensely.

St. Peter's words refer to spiritual growth. He pleads that we might "grow in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ." This growth cannot be measured with a foot rule or checked by an I. Q. test, for it is a matter of character, the kind of people we really are. Our lives should grow toward spiritual maturity year after year. To be spiritually undersized, to be a spiritual dwarf, is a grievous and even perilous condition.

There are four essentials for human growth--life and food, activity, and rest. Neglect any one of these and there is trouble, for growth is arrested and instead of a fine, healthy development there is distortion and decay.

**LIFE.** The first requirement for growth is life. Unless life is there to begin with, nothing will grow.

There must be life for growth, physical and spiritual. We receive both from God. The first indirectly through our parents, the second directly through Jesus Christ. We must be "in Christ" to be spiritually alive. "I am come," He said, "that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly."

**FOOD.** Even when we are alive physically we do not stay alive long if we stop taking food.

It is a case of "food for growth" and "grow as you feed" in the spiritual sense. Our soul's true food brings us back again to Jesus Christ. "For," records John, "the bread of God is He which cometh down from heaven and giveth life to the world."

**ACTIVITY.** Yet another requirement for growth is activity or exercise.

Anemic and feeble Christianity may be the result of less than energetic participation in Christian "warfare." Each passing year involves us in some difficulties and problems of a spiritual nature. We shall grow as we grapple with them and master them in our Lord's strength--not as we run away from them or fear them. We grow as we endure affliction and strive against sin; as we become actively involved in the whole Christian enterprise of worship and witness. We should always be ready to quicken our pace in answer to the call of the hymn, "Onward Christian soldiers, marching as to war; with the cross of Jesus, going on before!"

**REST.** It will not be true growth unless there is time for rest. A rhythm of work and rest is essential for spiritual growth.

There is a time when activity ceases and we can refresh ourselves in the knowledge that God is with us, sustaining us, caring for us. "Come ye yourselves apart," said our Lord to His disciples, "and rest awhile."

Life, food, activity and rest are the four conditions of spiritual as well as physical growth. We shall grow in grace as we pay attention to these four requirements.



REV. D. M. CLARK

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Rev. I. W. Wilson, 382-2632  
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Rev. A. B. Carr, 382-5682  
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Msgr. William J. Devlin, 382-9953  
704 W. McWilliams Ave., Las Vegas

Sunday Masses: 11 am and 5 pm  
Weekday Masses: 7:30 am; Saturday, 9 am  
Holyday Masses: 9:30 am and 7:30 pm  
Confessions: Saturday, 4-4:30 and 7:30-8 pm  
Adult Classes: Monday and Friday, 7:30 pm  
Child Classes: Monday, 4-5 pm; Saturday, 9-10:30 am  
Rosary: Daily, 7:30 pm except Sundays



**FUTURE CHEF?**--That could be destiny of little Jesus Marquez, shown above in arms of Godmother Mrs. Grace Taplin following baptism, if he follows in footsteps of proud papa, Richard Marquez (second from right), who practices culinary art at Riviera Hotel. Mother Naomi Marquez is at right with Godfather Bro. George Barton left. Msgr. William Devlin performed ceremony.

### CHURCH of GOD in CHRIST

**UPPER ROOM C. of G. in C.**  
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1117 N. F St., Las Vegas

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Henderson

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Eld. W. M. Shaw, 382-1743  
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155 Lawry Ave., Vegas Heights

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Eld. Coruth Hall, 649-1523  
301 N. D St., Las Vegas

(All Churches of God in Christ)

Bible Band: Tuesday, 8 pm  
\*Young People: Wednesday, 8 pm  
Consecration: Friday, 8 pm  
Sunday School: Sunday, 10 am  
Morning Service: Sunday, 12 noon  
YPW: Sunday, 8 pm  
(\*Inspirational at Progressive)

### METHODIST

**ZION METHODIST CHURCH**  
Rev. M. D. Bennett, 382-9900  
911 N. G St., Las Vegas

### PENTECOSTAL

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Eld. Hosea Coleman, 642-8741  
1260 Bartlett St., Vegas Heights

## Bethel Youth Service Every Third Sunday

YOUTH SERVICES are being conducted on third Sundays of each month at Bethel Baptist Church under the supervision of Mrs. Maggie Love, Youth Director; Mrs. Griffin, Director of Juniors, and the Rev. I. W. Wilson, Pastor.

At the most recent service, two 12-year-olds, Curtis Hall Jr. and Jessie Wesley, were in charge of Devotion. Welcome was extended by Dexter Brewer, with readings by Michael Hughes and Master Hall.

The Creation was beautifully portrayed by Carolyn and Robert Earl Glasco while music was furnished by the Youth and Junior choirs and the Lovettes of Bethel. Felix Glasco, Jr. served as master of ceremonies and Mrs. Elnora Glasco was at the piano.

Morning sermon was delivered by the Rev. Jessie Wesley Sr. and evening sermon by the Rev. Roy Wilson. Sponsors were Mrs. Brewer and Mrs. Wesley.

Youth reporters are Yvonne Hall and Patricia Sullivan.

### Notice

DEADLINE for church news and photographs is Friday noon preceding the next Thursday publication date at the Rev. Mr. Clark's home, 1676 N. 'E' St., telephone 642-1560. All items submitted must be accompanied by the sender's name, address and telephone number.

We Salute the...  
**WORKING WOMEN**  
MARCH 7-13