CHRIST AND SPIRITUAL MATURITY
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INTRODUCTION
1. The Christian is to grow in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ – 2 Pet. 3:18; 1 Pet. 2: 1- 2; Heb. 5: 12 – 14; Heb. 6:1.
2. We are to behold, as in a glass, the glory of the Lord, and are to change into the same image – 2 Cor. 3:18; Col. 3:10.
3. To the Christian, life is to be rich and rewarding because Christ is at the very center of his life, and demands his profound allegiance – Matt. 6:24, 33; Luke 9: 57 – 62.
4. Christ challenges the Christian to spiritual maturity.

I. TO THE CHRISTIAN, ALL OF HIS LIFE IS ORGANIZED AROUND CHRIST.
1. He realizes Christ is the pre-eminent one – Col. 1:18.
   (1) He comes before family – Matt. 10:37.
   (2) He comes before material things – Matt. 6: 24 – 33.
   (5) “Seek ye first the kingdom of God” – Matt. 6:33.
2. Christ is the Head of the church – Col. 1:18; Eph. 1: 22 – 23.
5. In Christ we have life, and have it more abundantly – John 10:10.
6. For the Christian to live is Christ – Phil. 1: 21.
7. The Christian says, “It is no longer I that live but Christ lives in me” –Gal. 2:20.
8. The Christian has the mind of Christ – Phil. 2:5.

II. TO THE CHRISTIAN, CHRIST’S WORD IS HIS CREED.
4. God’s word will furnish us completely unto every good work – 2 Tim. 3: 14 – 17.
5. The word of God gives us all things that pertain unto life and godliness – 2 Pet. 1:3.

III. THE STRENGTH OF THE CHRISTIAN IS FOUND IN HIS FELLOWSHIP WITH CHRIST THE FATHER AND SPIRIT.
1. John said, “Truly our fellowship is with the Father, and with His Son Jesus Christ” –I John 1:3.
2. We have fellowship with Christ and the Father when we walk in the light or word of God – I John 1:7.
3. “We are laborers together with God” –I Cor. 3:9.
4. We have fellowship with Christ in the Lord’s Supper – I Cor. 10:16.
5. Phil. 2:1.
IV. CHRIST CHALLENGES THE CHRISTIAN TO GROW

1. Matt. 5: 48
2. Matt. 6:33
3. Paul said, “Brethren, be not children in understanding: how be it in malice be ye children, but in understanding be men” – I Cor. 14:20.
5. Heb. 6:1.
6. Heb. 5: 12 – 14
7. Eph. 4: 14 – 16
8. Phil. 3: 13 – 16
9. The Christian, if he is to grow, must take time to meditate in the presence of God, and in his meditations he learns to look his faults in the face – Psa. 1:2; 19:14; I Tim. 4:15.
10. Sins in the heart must be faced frankly:
    (1) Self-centeredness – 2 Tim. 3:2
    (2) Pride – 2 Tim. 3:2
    (3) Covetousness – 2 Tim. 3:2
    (4) Unthankful – 2 Tim. 3:2
    (5) Without natural affection – 2 Tim. 3:3
    (6) Envy – Gal. 5:21
    (7) Jealousy – Gal. 5:20
    (8) Strife – Gal. 5:20
    (9) Mark 7: 20 - 23

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