

Becoming 3D Disciples

Discover Jesus

I Want to Be a Tree

Becoming 3D Disciples

Two Weeks on Discover


Last Week – Come and See

- Invitation to Encounter Jesus
- Invitation into New Life

Doesn't Stop There

- moving from new life to maturity
- immaturity a real concern
 - expect our children to grow and mature
 - planting your garden – expect plants to grow & produce

Scripture uses imagery of vines that produce fruit - mature



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- Psalm 1 *¹ Blessed is the one who does not walk in step with the wicked or stand in the way that sinners take or sit in the company of mockers, ² but whose delight is in the law of the LORD, and who meditates on his law day and night. ³ That person is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither— whatever they do prospers. ⁴ Not so the wicked! They are like chaff that the wind blows away. ⁵ Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the assembly of the righteous.*
- *⁶ For the LORD watches over the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked leads to destruction.*

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1. Careful Planting

- choose a location where roots receive what is needed for plant
- a) choosing the site carefully
 - blessed is the one who
 - does not – ‘walk in step with wicked’, ‘stand in the way sinners take’, ‘sit in the company of mockers’
 - putting roots into diseased waters, poor location
 - does – ‘delight in the law of the Lord’, ‘meditates on his law constantly’
 - setting the roots into living waters
 - like a tree – supplied by water, yields fruit in season, leaves do not wither, prospers

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b) Stakes are Huge

- 'like chaff that blows away', 'will not stand in the judgment'
- Lord watches over (tends) the way of the righteous, way of wicked leads to destruction

c) Important to Root Your Life in God's Word

- Psalm 119:9- 16

"How can a young person stay on the path of purity?

By living according to your word.

¹⁰ I seek you with all my heart;

do not let me stray from your commands.

***¹¹ I have hidden your word in my heart
that I might not sin against you.***

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12 Praise be to you, LORD;

teach me your decrees.

13 With my lips I recount

all the laws that come from your mouth.

14 I rejoice in following your statutes

as one rejoices in great riches.

15 I meditate on your precepts

and consider your ways.

16 I delight in your decrees;

I will not neglect your word.

- Starting with the heart – seeking God, placing His word there
 - sending roots into the word of God, having it feed your soul, and storing the truths in your heart

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- look at the posture – praising God, desiring to be taught his decrees, not as obligations but as truth to embrace and live by
- causes rejoicing as in great riches, delight in God's decrees as they guide wise choices and right living
- meditating and considering – diving deep and adjusting life to live according to truth

2. Careful Pruning

- learning to tend plants to produce fruit
- Eph. 4:11-24

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- “¹¹ So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, ¹² to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up ¹³ until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.
- ¹⁴ Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of people in their deceitful scheming. ¹⁵ Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ. ¹⁶ From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.

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So I tell you this, and insist on it in the Lord, that you must no longer live as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their thinking. ¹⁸ They are darkened in their understanding and separated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them due to the hardening of their hearts. ¹⁹ Having lost all sensitivity, they have given themselves over to sensuality so as to indulge in every kind of impurity, and they are full of greed. ²⁰ That, however, is not the way of life you learned ²¹ when you heard about Christ and were taught in him in accordance with the truth that is in Jesus. ²² You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; ²³ to be made new in the attitude of your minds; ²⁴ and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.

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a) Work on and with each other


- given gifts to use for a purpose
- equip for works of service, build up the body, become mature

b) Immaturity puts us at risk

- tossed back and forth by the waves
- blown about by every wind of teaching
- easily deceived by people

c) Healthy Growth Pictured

- truth spoken in love
- grow to reflect Jesus
- He joins and holds us together – as each part does its work



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d) Not presented as optional

- 'insist on it in the Lord'
- no longer live in darkness, futile thinking and understanding
- hard hearted towards God – losing sensitivity to right and wrong, indulging in destruction
- Remember what you learned – hearing of Christ, entering into relationship and being taught to put off the old, and be made new

3. Careful Progress

- intentional about gauging the growth – where it should be
- real about what should be happening and getting on track
- Hebrews 5:11 – 6:3

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¹¹ We have much to say about this, but it is hard to make it clear to you because you no longer try to understand. ¹² In fact, though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you the elementary truths of God's word all over again. You need milk, not solid food! ¹³ Anyone who lives on milk, being still an infant, is not acquainted with the teaching about righteousness. ¹⁴ But solid food is for the mature, who by constant use have trained themselves to distinguish good from evil. Therefore let us move beyond the elementary teachings about Christ and be taken forward to maturity, not laying again the foundation of repentance from acts that lead to death, and of faith in God, ² instruction about cleansing rites, the laying on of hands, the resurrection of the dead, and eternal judgment. ³ And God permitting, we will do so."

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a) Slow Growth an Issue

- much to say that you are not ready to hear
- should be teachers by now but alas – still babies
- must move to solid food

b) Mark of Maturity – distinguish good from evil

- ‘by constant use have trained themselves’
- not about the information or discussion alone – but use of it

c) So Get Growing


- therefore – get busy diving deep and practicing your faith
- God permitting – He does the work by his Holy Spirit

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So What

1. Discover is an ongoing process
 - new life must be rooted in truth that will provide real growth
 - God has revealed himself to us in His Word – pick it up
2. We need to be Pruned and Built up
 - need the body of Christ
 - dangers to immaturity and growth not an option
3. We need to gauge our progress and refine process
 - right gauges will reveal reality – allow us to move forward



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Four dashboard indicators for Our Lives in this area:

- 1. Church**
- 2. Bible**
- 3. Posture**
- 4. Prayer**

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- ***Discover Jesus – “Come and see...”***
- One of the primary avenues of discovering Jesus is through committing yourself to corporate worship and making it a priority in your life. Regularly attending Sunday services is a great indicator of your desire to grow in your faith and put God first in your life.
- Getting into the word is a huge benefit to the believer’s quest to continually grow in one’s faith and discover Jesus. Making the word a priority in your life by regularly delving into the scriptures is a key indicator of your desire for God.
- Posture is everything. If it is your desire to grow in your faith, it begins with a humble, open and teachable attitude. You can attend church and read your Bible religiously, but if your posture is not right, you will only grow a hard heart.
- Prayer is one of the starting points for discovering Jesus and it is an essential aspect of your continuing desire for on-going discovery in your journey of faith. At its core it is a conversation with God and a massive indicator of how your relationship with Jesus is doing.

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