

New Life That Is Designed To Grow

2 Timothy 3:10-17

Introduction:

A. Welcome and Scripture Reader

B. Review last week.

1. New Life – 3 Week sermons series that will tie together the women's and men's retreat themes.
2. Last weeks: New life because we've been made new in Jesus.
3. This week - **New Life That Is Designed to Grow**

C. Failure to Thrive

1. Diagnosis in children when their weight gain and subsequent growth is below the norms for their age.
2. Sometimes there is a physical underlying cause, however most often it's because of malnutrition.
3. If left untreated, the child will die.
4. Anything that is alive is designed to grow. The only things that don't grow are things that are dead.

D. Spiritual failure to thrive.

1. When we fail to grow as we are designed and equipped to grow.
2. Little foreshadowing to next week.
3. 2 Peter 1:3 – We've been "*given everything we need for life and godliness*"

E. How are we to grow?

I We Grow...With Others – 3:10-11 - *You, however, know all about my teaching, my way of life, my purpose, faith, patience, love, endurance, persecutions, sufferings—what kinds of things happened to me in Antioch, Iconium and Lystra, the persecutions I endured. Yet the Lord rescued me from all of them*

A. Notice the phrase "You, however, know all about my...."

1. How did Timothy know all this about Paul? How could he tell Paul's story?
2. Because he lived it with him.

B. Paul and Timothy's relationship

1. Paul called him his true child in the faith.
2. Timothy appeared to be timid person that had a ton of potential.
3. Paul took him with him and nurtured him along.
4. He traveled with Paul extensively for probably about three years.
5. Everything Paul experienced, Timothy did or witnessed.
6. The whole time, the cameras were rolling.
7. At one point, Paul says I'm leaving you in Ephesus, to grow this church.

C. John Maxwell – Process for Equipping People

1. I do the task
2. I do the task while you watch
3. You do the task while I watch
4. You do the task
5. You do the task and someone watches you.

D. Who is your Paul? Who is your Timothy?

1. We all need the Paul's in our lives.
2. Those of us who are older in the faith (and years) need a few Timothy's in our lives.
3. We need to keep our Paul's?
4. Eventually the Timothy's will take care of us. Cp. 2 Timothy 4:9,13

E. As we walk we learn, we struggle, we suffer, we mourned, we laugh, we celebrate.

F. A joy bond is created that enables growth. Fear starts to diminish and thriving can take place.

G. We are designed to grow with others.

II We Grow...In A Different Direction 3:12-15 - *In fact, everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted, while evildoers and impostors will go from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived. But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have become convinced of, because you know those from whom you learned it, and how from infancy*

you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.

A. Notice the phrase –

1. “but as for you, continue in...”
2. Indicates progress and direction

B. It's New Path

1. Repentance – turn from one direction to another
2. Bumpy often treacherous road – 3:12

C. It's diverging paths – 3:13-15

1. Notice the words indicate a directions
 - a. “continue in what you learned...”
 - b. “They go from bad to worse”
2. This world wants our paths to merge.
 - a. Merging paths are wider, smoother, well-traveled.
 - b. Jesus had something to say about wide roads. They lead to destruction. (Matthew 7)
 - c. He also said narrow roads lead to life.

D. Scott Caldwell's class from 8/31

1. Syncretism (“\$10 scholarly word”) – the mixing of Bible teaching of Bible standards with the culture so that is no longer offensive to the world.
2. Obvious evidence is when the world has a problem with the Bible but not a church's watered down teaching.
3. 4 areas (there are others)
 - a. Materialism with the Gospel
 - b. Popular Psychology (Happy verses Holiness)
 - c. All roads lead to God
 - d. Sexual morals and ethics

E. The direction we follow is one that can be lived because it's based on truth.

1. The world goes from bad to words because they are trying live out lies.

2. Lies cannot be lived out.
3. The text here says to “continue in the path you have learned and been convinced of
 - a. Literally what you put your faith in.
 - b. It can be lived out.

F. We grow in a different direction. Continue in that direction.

III We Grow ...In God's Word - 3:16-17 - *All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.*

- A. I cannot stress enough the importance of putting God's word in your life.
1. Reading – casual and deep
 2. Study – casual and deep
- B. We live in a privileged time:
1. We have the full story revealed to us in one document.
 2. We have direct access in many languages.
 3. Literacy rates are to the point that most can read and for those unable physically or trouble reading, we can listen to it.
- C. It is our first line of nourishment. Before we know how to pray, before we know how to worship, which will come quickly, we can put God's word our lives.
- D. The Holy Spirit uses the words of God to change you. It fuels the Holy Spirit in you.
1. Hebrews 4:12 - *For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.*
 2. Dividing soul and spirit – those unconscious parts of us deep within us.
 3. Joints and marrow – those deep physical parts; ever read something and are moved emotionally by it? That the joint and marrow idea. Hit's us deep to the point we feel it physically.
- E. What is our role?
1. James is clear on this. James 1:21-22 - *Therefore, get rid of all moral filth and the evil that is so prevalent and humbly accept the word*

planted in you, which can save you. Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says.

2. “Humbly accept the word”
 - a. Takes out the “yeah, but...” which I would classify as bits of prevalent evil.
 - b. What about? They? What if?
3. “Planted in you” – how does something get planted?

F. Benefits

1. Teaches us, rebukes us, corrects us, and trains us in righteousness....
2. Thoroughly equips us for every good work

G. Tips on deep reading:

1. Take it slow. Ask questions. Notice the actions words and the modifiers.
2. Digest the word
 - a. Treat it like thanksgiving dinner
 - b. Not a drive through
 - c. Don't forget what it taste like.
3. Start and practice with 2 Timothy 3:16-17

H. As we take it in, we are digesting the truth of God, that we can be lived out.

1. Eugene Peterson wrote in his book, “Eat This Book”

Christians feed on Scripture. Holy Scripture nurtures the holy community as food nurtures the human body. Christians don't simply learn or study or use Scripture; we assimilate it, take it into our lives in such a way that it gets metabolized into acts of love, cups of cold water, missions into all the world, healing and evangelism and justice in Jesus' name, hands raised in adoration of the Father, feet washed in company with the Son.

2. Larry Bowles – the more we read God's word the more it reads us.
3. Practice Principle #7 – Reserve a daily quiet time with God for self-examination, Bible reading and prayer in order to know God and His will for my life and to gain the power to follow his will.

I. We grow in God's word

Conclusion:

- A. If you are in Christ you have new life. You are designed to grow in him not be stagnate and withering. (Fiddle Fig???)
- B. When you have your Paul's and Timothy's in your life, continue in the path to which you were called, and continually put God's word in you will grow in this new life.
- C. Lean into this process or come back to this process. When we do, the newness doesn't wear off. It gets newer every day.
- D. Offer invite.