

## **Spiritual Growth is a Choice**

And if it seem evil unto you to serve the LORD, choose you this day whom ye will serve; whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD - Joshua 24:15

Commanded in The Great Commission – Matthew 28:18-20

Peter begins his second epistle describing how we are to grow

- II Peter 1:5-8

Peter ends his second epistle with a command to grow

- II Peter 3:18

Unlike physical growth which occurs naturally with little effort

Spiritual growth requires concentrated effort

- John 6:27
- Philippians 2:12

We are not alone in our efforts

- Philippians 2:13
- Ephesians 6:10-11
- Philippians 4:13

Our labor will not be in vain

- I Corinthians 15:58

## **Habits for Spiritual Growth**

### Bible Study

- I Peter 2:2
- Psalms 19:7-11
- Psalms 1:1-3

### Prayer

- Hebrews 4:16
- Philippians 4:6-7
- Romans 12:12
- Psalms 55:17
- Daniel 6:10

### Assembling together with the church

- Hebrews 10:24-25
- Acts 20:7
- I Corinthians 16:2
- Romans 12:3-8

### Participation in the work of the church

- lead singing - men
- lead prayer - men
- Lord's table - men
- Teach
  - Publicly – men
  - Privately – women & men
- Visit the Sick – women & men

### Christian Fellowship

- spend time with fellow Christians
- get to know them, share concerns/joys

## The Value of Role Models

See Allan's lesson – Mt Carmel, fourth Sunday, July 2006

### We Naturally Seek to Follow

- children imitate their parents
- teenagers imitate their peers and popular idols
- Christians imitate those they respect

### Value of Role Models

- good role models can help
  - o how a “son of thunder” becomes a “apostle of love”
    - Mark 3:17
    - I John 4:7-8
  - o how “uneducated and untrained men” can proclaim the gospel of Christ
    - Acts 4:13
- bad role models can hinder
  - o such as Demas who “loved this present world”
    - II Timothy 4:10

### Role Models Worth Following

- Christ
  - o Matthew 5:43-48
  - o Ephesians 5:1-2
- Other Biblical Characters
  - o I Corinthians 11:1
  - o Romans 16:3-5
  - o Philemon 1-7
  - o II John 5-8
  - o Acts 9:36,39
  - o Philippians 2:19-22

## The Importance of a Positive Attitude

### The danger of a negative attitude

- twelve spies of Israel
  - o Numbers 13:31
  - o Numbers 13:32-14:4
  - o Deuteronomy 1:29-33
  - o Numbers 14:26-38

### The value of a positive attitude

- rebuilding the walls of Jerusalem
  - o Nehemiah 4:6
  - o Nehemiah 4:1-3
  - o Nehemiah 6:15

### Choose to be positive

- Even when times are hard
  - o James 1:2
  - o James 1:3-4
  - o Romans 5:3-4
- Despite our external circumstances
  - o II Corinthians 4:16-5:1
  - o Philippians 2:17-18

### Block out negativity

- With constant reminders
  - o Philippians 4:13
  - o Philippians 2:12-13
  - o Gal 6:7-9
  - o I Tim 4:15
  - o I Corinthians 15:58
- Avoid negative people
  - o I Corinthians 15:33

## Surround yourself with positive people

- People who encourage you to do what is right
  - Heb 10:24
- People who refresh your spirit
  - I Corinthians 16:17-18
  - Philemon 4-7
- People like Barnabas, “Sons of Encouragement”
  - Acts 4:36
  - Acts 11:22-24