

GROW IN GRACE AND KNOWLEDGE

II PETER 3:18

Introduction:

- A. Babies are one of the most appealing things in the world
 - 1. They are used constantly in advertising.
 - 2. Babies usually draw a crowd.

- B. There are spiritual babies.
 - 1. Everyone has their spiritual beginning by birth.
 - 1. Jesus ; John 3:
 - 2. I Peter 2:1-2.

- C. The parallel between physical and spiritual infancy is not perfect.
 - 1. Spiritual babyhood is not evident at a glance.
 - 2. Spiritual growth is not an assured fact.
 - 3. Spiritual development can be reversed.

- D. The fact of infancy, means responsibility.
 - 1. Parents have responsibility to children.
 - 2. Churches have responsibility to infants.
 - 3. Fulfilled by keeping commission to "teach."

I. SOME CHARACTERISTICS OF SPIRITUAL BABIES.

- A. The Corinthian church is rebuked by being infantile.
 - I Cor. 3:1-3.
 - 1. Over emphasis upon Pastors and Preachers.
 - 2. Moral lapses, toleration of immorality.
 - 3. Spirit of contention, bickering, quarreling.
 - 4. Misuse of Ordinance.
 - 5. Over emphasis of emotional gifts.
 - 6. Were not sure about the resurrection.
 - 7. They were careless about the collection.

- B. We must remember.
 - 1. They are the "Church of God."
 - 2. They are called to be "saints."

II. PETER ADVISE THESE CHRISTIANS TO GROW.

- A. grow = to increase, to grow, to grow up, .
 - 1. We should mature.
 - 2. The church has great need for mature persons.
- B. in grace = a kind, affectionate, pleasing nature.
 - 1. Try to be more like Jesus.
 - 2. Not imitation, but a genuine changing.
- C. in knowledge = the knowledge or understanding of a thing
 - 1. Hollering "Amen" is not always understanding.
 - 2. Seek to comprehend.
- D. "of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ."

III. HOW CAN WE GROW?

- A. Not church programs.
 - 1. Not Associational regular meetings.
 - a. Youth Rallys. b. Mission Rallys. etc.
- B. Some things babies need.
 - 1. Love, from God and others.
 - 2. Security, from God and from others.
 - 3. Food, the Word of God.
 - 4. Discipline, from God and from the church.
 - 5. Proper environment, spiritual.
- C. Some things babies don't need.
 - 1. Abuse.
 - 2. Excessive demands or responsibility.
 - 3. Wrong diet.

IV. "TO HIM BE GLORY BOTH NOW AND FOREVER."