

Growing Up

Ray Stedman

I. Introduction.

- A. Text: Colossians 1:9-14.
- B. New Christians are often idealized like new babies.
- C. The marks of a new Christian are faith, hope and love.
- D. Growing up is what is important.
- E. The Colossians are in danger of false teaching.
- F. Paul is in Rome, but he is a prayer warrior and will be able to help them stand through it.

II. Paul's prayer.

- A. It is continual.
- B. Paul asks that they would come to understand the knowledge of God's will.
 - 1. The chief end is to know God's will.
 - 2. This is not discovering God's itinerary.
 - 3. Behavior flows out of who you think you are.
 - 4. You are not your own.
- C. The means to discover the will of God.
 - 1. Spiritual wisdom.
 - a. This is wisdom that comes from the Spirit. (I Corinthians 2)
 - b. If we want to be realistic, we must look at things how God looks at them.
 - c. Every Christian can gain this wisdom even though it is not natural to him.
 - 2. Activities in which to participate.
 - a. Walk worthy of the Lord.
 - b. Please God through faith.
 - c. Bear fruit in every good work—the Fruit of the Spirit. (Galatians 5)

D. Results.

1. Growing in the knowledge of God.

a. Knowing God is excitement and vitality.

b. If you are bored as a Christian, you do not know God.

2. Being strengthened in all power with glorious might.

a. The true sign of spiritual power is one who has learned to become longsuffering and patient with joy.

b. We can always be grateful for privileges we do not deserve, the perils we have been saved from and the pressures from which we have been freed—the feelings of being unwanted and unworthy.

Application questions:

1. What do people often misconceive discovering God's will to be? Explain.

2. What would you tell someone who wants to know the will of God?

3. Why should you seek God's will for your life?
