

Spiritual Growth

October 5th, 2006

A recent comment from “Slice of Infinity” led me to the following thought regarding “Spiritual Growth.” The need is always to be on the growing edge. In the physical sense, we are alarmed when children remain stunted in their growth, while we express joy when they gain in their stature. The Apostle John has been noted as sharing his joy with us when he heard and witnessed the spiritual growth of those who had more recently embraced Christ as their Redeemer. Spiritual growth always means to set aside the “junk food” so readily available and commence to have a change in our diet. What sort of “childish” matters should be set aside? One statement that John Newton, the former slave trader, who was gloriously saved expressed is, “The men of this world are children. Offer a child an apple and a bank note, he will doubtless choose the apple.” The apple gives immediate gratification even though but a momentary satisfaction. Did Eve not have the same problem even though she had a blank check to draw on the bank of heaven? A cookie may spoil a child’s dinner, but he has no concept regarding such deep matters. You see, “infants” cannot handle solid food, or thought; he will rebel against such reasoning. See I Cor. 13:11! This is one reason why God gives leadership in homes by way of parents, teachers in school, and pastors in church and governments in the country.

The above analogy may be well directed to those who “have ears to hear” (snakes have no ears). When adults pursue temporary fulfilments, their relationship with God suffers. In many cases relationships also suffer in the home and churches when in pursuit of worldly pleasures and companionships at the expense of biblical truth. How many do not do the things that “the boys do,” which includes a social drink and a little gossip, “Wine is a mocker, intoxicating drink arouses brawling, And who ever is led astray by it is not wise” Proverbs 20:1.

Consider what Solomon experienced, “He who justifies the wicked, and he who condemns the just, both of them alike are an abomination to the Lord.” Proverbs 17:15. A grown man would do well to consider what Solomon also says in Proverbs 18:13 “He who answers a matter before he heareth it, it is a folly and a shame to him.” See Proverbs 29:27, 25:9, 10. When we are so busy with our careers, we may well have to be introduced to our own children when we retire. Homes are on the rocks because of “over night pleasures.” On the other hand, how often children run from home because they do not get their own way in the “alleged” regimental conditions of the home that still has some standards? How many do not run from the teaching of the Word of God because it is too “judgemental”. It is time to put away childish things and realize that God has given us a bankbook by which we may draw on the riches of heaven. Let us not throw it away for temporary “satisfactions,” which may well be at the expense of family, church and the salvation of those who need our total commitment to reaching the world. Let us put aside “childish things” and realize our real enemy, Satan, who is having a hey day due to the conditions of our lives and churches all due to our “childish things”. Jv/dV.

Send your comments and questions and we will, prayerfully seek to get back to you as soon as possible. jandrxdv@nbnet.nb.ca