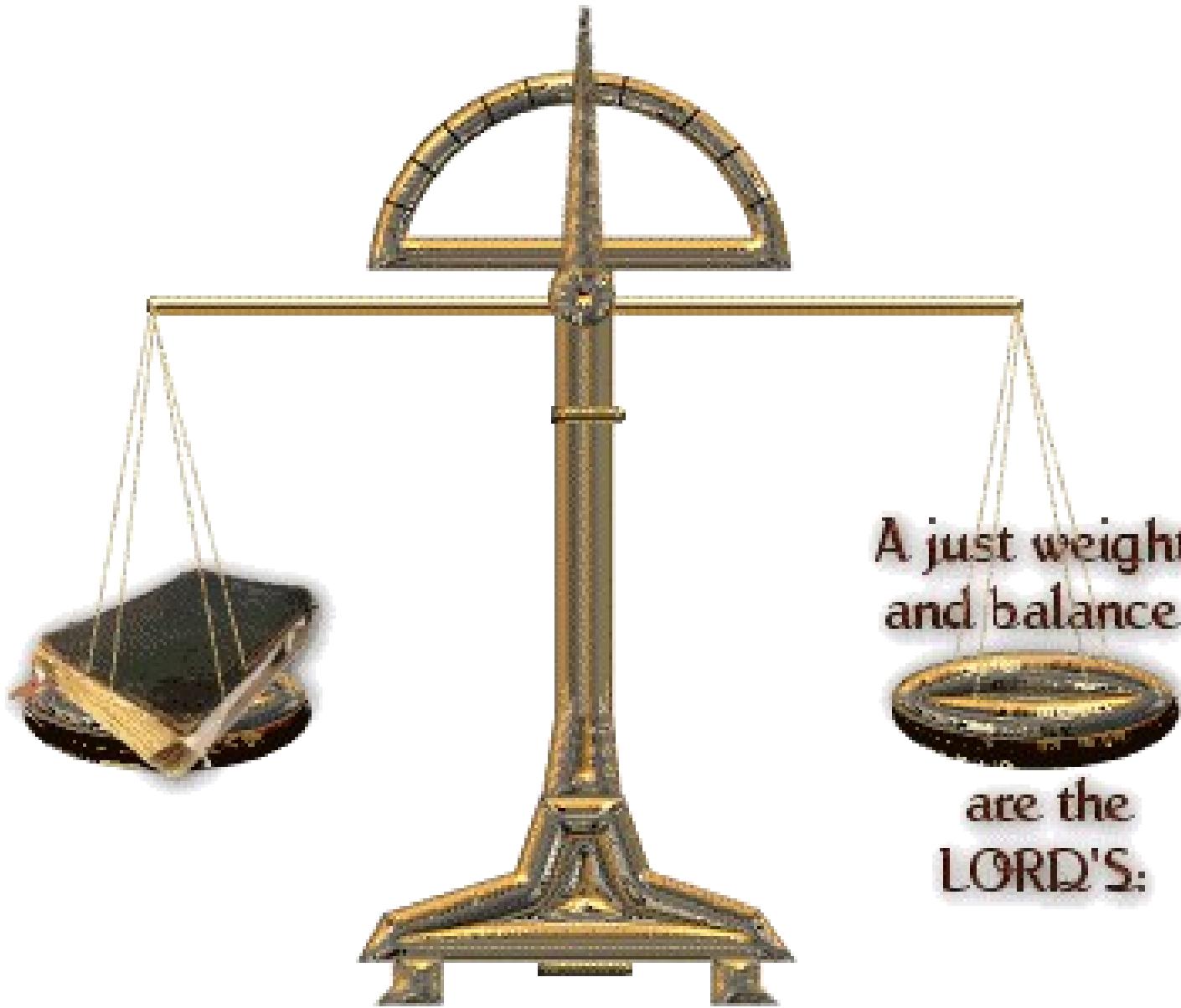


- Church Web Site

www.tryonchurchofchrist.com

All sermons are posted here
plus additional resources



Thus saith the Lord..

- **Hebrews 5:9**

*And being made perfect,
he became the author of eternal
salvation unto all them that
obey him;*

- **5:10 Called of God an high priest
after the order of Melchisedec.**

- **5:11 Of whom we have many
things to say, and hard to be
uttered, seeing ye are
dull of hearing.**

- Just about every home that has small children has a growth chart somewhere in the house.
- We sometimes used the inside of a closet doorjamb to mark the height of our kids and the date.
 - Then, perhaps each year on their birthdays, we would measure them again.
- They were always excited to see how much they had grown!

- But can you imagine how shocked and concerned we would have been if, instead of **growing up**, one of our children had **grown down!**
- We would have scheduled an immediate doctor's appointment to find out **what was wrong.**
 - Growth is **normal** and a cause for joy.
 - Shrinkage would have been bizarre and **a cause for alarm.**

- Many of the Hebrew Christians to whom our author wrote had **grown down** in their Christian walk, **not up.**
- He says that they had come to need **milk** again, not solid food.
- Imagine a teenager who quit eating regular food and went back to **formula** and **Gerber's baby food!**

- Instead of being able to teach others, they now need someone to teach them **the ABC's of the Christian life** all over again.

- The author wants to talk to them about Jesus being a high priest after the order of **Melchizedek**, but he fears that **it will be over their heads.**
- In our text, he is telling them to **“Grow up!”**

- You have no doubt been in a situation **where an adult was acting like a child**
- You want to shout,
“Grow up!”
- **Act your age!**

- If there is **spiritual life,** there will be **spiritual growth** of some sort, but growth rates vary.
- Some become Christians and **instantly** drop the sins that have plagued their lives for years and never fall back.
- Others **struggle** to get rid of those sins for decades

- **Our Lord understood this struggle.**

- **Matthew 18:21**

Then came Peter to him,
and said, Lord,
how often shall my brother sin
against me, and I forgive him?
until seven times?

18:22 Jesus saith unto him,
I say not unto thee,
Until seven times: but,
Until seventy times seven.

- Paul hits the Hebrews with the fact that they “have become dull of hearing” (5:11).
 - They didn’t used to be that way, but they have developed this spiritual malady.
 - “Dull” is used three times in the New Testament,
 - And means sluggish or slow.
 - It was used by the Greeks to describe someone of being sick and therefore lacking energy.
 - So the word has the idea of spiritual laziness.

- Verse 11 shows that teaching God's Word is a two-way street.
- There is the knowledge and ability of the teacher to explain things clearly and in an interesting manner.
 - But also, there is the receptivity of the hearers.
- It is significant that the best teacher who has ever lived used to exhort His audience,
***“He who has ears to hear,
let him hear.”***
(Luke 18:18)

- “*Take care how you listen;*
 - *for whoever has,
to him more shall be given;*
- *and whoever does not have,*
 - *even what he thinks he has
shall be taken away from him”*

(Luke 8:18).

- If Jesus is the preacher
and the message isn't coming through,
guess who is at fault?
- When hearers are dull,
teaching is difficult.

- It is a universal law that
the more
one learns,

the more one can learn;

- But if he refuses
to go on learning,
he will lose
the knowledge
he has.

- There is no standing still in life.
 - All the time we are either
 - going forward**
 - or
 - going back.**
 - The **seeker** will always find;
 - The **slacker** will always lose.

- Motivation is the key to learning.
- “*Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied*”
(Matthew 5:6).
- Hunger and thirst are strong motivators!

- There is one important point
in this beatitude,
a point which only emerges
in the Greek.

- That is :

Greek genitive case

- Greek accusative case

- In the
Greek genitive case
the reading is:
 - “*I want some bread,
but not the whole loaf.*”
 - “*I thirst for some water
but not all the water
in the well.*”

- But Jesus uses the **Greek accusative form** thus meaning:
 - **To want the whole thing.**
 - To say I **hunger** for bread in the accusative means,
I want the whole loaf.
 - To say I **thirst** for water in the accusative means,
I want the whole pitcher.

- That is what people seldom do.
 - They are content with a part of righteousness.
 - A man may be a good man in that, however hard one tried,
one could not pin a moral fault on to him.
 - But that goodness is accompanied with a hard heart, a lack of sympathy.
 - Such a goodness is a partial goodness.

- On the other hand
a man may have
all kinds of faults;
- He may drink, and swear,
and lose his temper;
- And yet, if any one is in trouble,
he would give him
the shirt off his back.
 - That is a
partial goodness.

- **It is not enough**
to be satisfied with
a partial goodness.
- Blessed is the man who
hungers and thirsts
for the goodness
which is total.
- **Are you listening?**

- There is
no neutral
in the Christian life.
- Either you are **growing**
or you're **shrinking**.
- Which is it for **you**
right now?

- We fool ourselves into thinking that we're just **treading water,**
- The strong current of the world, the flesh, and the devil **carries us backwards** if we're not striving to move ahead.

- Paul wanted to teach them about Jesus being a high priest forever **after to the order of Melchizedek,** but they can't handle it.
- It's like trying to get a student **to read Shakespeare,** but he can't even recognize **the letters of the alphabet!**

- “*For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you have need again for someone to teach you the elementary principles*”
(Hebrews 5:12)

- The Greek word means,
the ABC's
of the oracles of God.

- Many Christians make the mistake of believing **that length of time** in the church **relates to maturity.**
- **That is a grave mistake.**

- Beyond the **basic truths in Scripture** there is much in Scripture that is **deep** and **nourishing**.
- It has been said:
*“That the Bible
is like an ocean,
deep enough to
drown an elephant,
but shallow enough
for a toddler to play.”*

- Sadly, we live in a day of **dumbed-down Christianity**, where there is an **aversion to** sound doctrine.

- The word **“doctrine”** is found about **“45”times** in the N.T.

- Even ones behavior needs to be discerned according to God's Word.
- Our culture bombards us with immoral behavior as if it were neutral, or even desirable.
- As a result, many evangelicals currently believe that homosexual behavior is okay, as long as the couple is “committed” or “in love”
 - One only needs to read Genesis 19 to know God's view.

- Bible doctrine
is not just to
fill your head with trivia
or
help you win an argument.
- It is always intended
to make you
a more
godly person.

- In Hebrews 6:1,
the author exhorts his readers
to leave

“the elementary teaching”
and

“press on to maturity”.

- Not
laying again the foundation....”

- Then he mentions
six things

that comprise the foundational,
elementary teachings.

- By leaving these things,
he is not suggesting
that they are no longer important
and should be left behind.
- Rather, he is saying
that once you lay
a proper foundation,
- Don't go back and dig it up
again and **again.**
 - Move on,
building your life
on that foundation.

• No teacher would ever get anywhere
if he had to lay the foundations all over again every time he began to teach.

- Hebrews 6:1

Therefore leaving the principles of the doctrine of Christ, let us go on unto maturity; not laying again the foundation of repentance

*from dead works,
and of faith toward God,*

**6:2 Of the doctrine of baptisms, and
of laying on of hands, and of
resurrection of the dead,
and of eternal judgment.**

- There is no magic to growing in
“grace and knowledge”.
(2 Peter 1:2)
 - No divine magic.
 - No special favor.
 - It comes by “**studying**”.
(2 Timothy 2:15)
 - The “**Power**” is in the “**Word**”.
(Romans 1:16)
 - **Are you listening?**

- We need maturity
as we are warned:

2 Timothy 4:3-4

**3 For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers,
having itching ears;**

4 And they shall turn away *their* ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables.

- Ephesians 4:14

That we be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive;

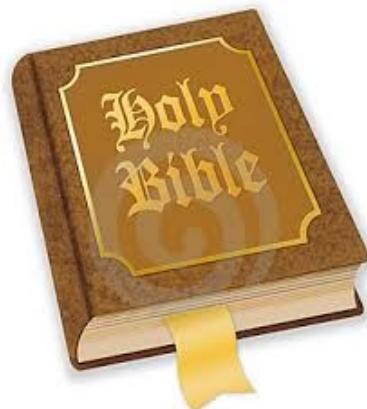
- **Are you growing**
as a Christian?
- Or are you
repeating
your first year
over and over
again?

- Think on these things
- Philippians 4:8

**The doors of the church
are open.**

**The Spirit and the Bride
Say
“Come”.**

Revelation 22:17



- 09-11-2022 Tryon, NC