

doing God's work

What does it mean to be a mature believer?

The mature believer

At the beginning in general

Mature believers

The natural man:

1. birth
2. Incremental maturing: we learn to crawl, walk, talk, we are learning to obey the rules so that we can function in society, and enjoy the benefits of that society
3. If we break the rules we are chastened and at some level we lose the benefits afforded the mature adult

Even to the point of prison, where we lose all the benefits of the mature responsible adult.

The spiritual man, in like manner:

1. birth
2. volitional maturing - advancing beyond birth: we begin to learn and to appreciate the benefits of the adolescent believer
3. If we break the rules we may become imprisoned by our own cosmic desires. If we continue in that way we will never know the benefits promised to the mature adult believer.

A dog in a mansion

Like the natural man, the spiritual mature believer does not have complete knowledge of all things, he has to continue to learn (though he is a mature believer), because he is mature he will be able to receive and understand the deeper teachings of God, which will give him a greater appreciation of God, and increases his capacity to enjoy the blessings of God

1 John 2:13-17 (NKJV)
13 Write to you, little children, because your sins are forgiven you for not making idols.
14 I write to you, fathers, because you have known him who is the Father's only begotten Son, who is in the world, and the world of God knows him not.
15 I have written to you, little children, because you have known him who is the Father's only begotten Son, who is in the world, and the world of God knows him not.
16 I have written to you, fathers, because you have known him who is the Father's only begotten Son, who is in the world, and the world of God knows him not.
17 And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever.

Suggested Memory Verse

1 Corinthians 9:24-27 (NKJV)
24 Do you not know that those who run in a race do not run, but one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may obtain it.
25 And everyone who competes for the prize is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a perishable crown, but we for an imperishable crown.
26 Therefore I run thus: not with uncertainty. Thus I fight, not as one who beats the air.
27 I discipline my body and bring it into subjection, and as I have preached to others, myself should become disqualified.

Why are we here?

Just to put in our 1 hour per week, so that we can say we go to church?

We are here:

to learn God's word

to pay attention to the details

to receive with eagerness the basic principles of understanding, so that we have a standard for decision-making, so that the believer will have the best possible reward at the judgment seat of Christ

Proverbs 2:5-11 (NKJV)
5 If you receive my words, and treasure my commandments within you,
6 so that you incline your ear to wisdom, and apply your heart to understanding,
7 then, if you cry out for discretion, and lift up your voice for understanding,
8 if you seek her as silver, and search for her as for hidden treasure,
9 then you will understand the fear of the Lord, and find the knowledge of God.
10 For the Lord gives wisdom, from His mouth come knowledge and understanding.
11 For He shows up sound wisdom for the upright, He is silent to those who walk uprightly.
12 He guards the paths of justice, and preserves the way of His saints.
13 Then you will understand righteousness and justice, Equity and every good path.
14 Wisdom will enter your heart, and knowledge is pleasant to your soul.
15 Discretion will preserve you, understanding will keep you.

There's no point in coming to Bible study, unless we're here for the express purpose to transform the way we think and act!

We're not here to play God!

Undergirding only For The Spiritually Minded

is all about doing God's work

I. Paul's audience the Corinthian church is filled with Cosmic viewpoint thinking

* II. The Servant's Perspective:

How can a servant go out at the world, and see a little bit of Jesus dwelling in me

A. Paul's church age perspective

1 Corinthians 9:19-23 (NKJV)
19 For though I am free from all men, I have made myself a servant to all, that I might win the more;
20 and to the Jews I became as a Jew, that I might win Jews; to those who are under the law, as under the law, that I might win those who are under the law;

21 to those who are without law, as without law (not being without law toward God, but under law toward Christ), that I might win those who are without law;

22 to the weak I became as weak, that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all men, that I might by all means save some.

23 Now this I do for the gospel's sake, that I may be partaker of it with you

The ultimate determiner of everything in our lives is the gospel. What we are doing we should be doing because of our eternal perspective.

* III. The Motivated Believers Perspective is to abide by the rules of the competition

We are to live life today, in light of eternity.

Paul's attitude that undergirds this discussion, is that in the spiritual life each individual has to decide whether or not we are serious about living the spiritual life

Our daily perspective should be like that of an athlete, preparing, and running, to win the crown!

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25 And everyone who competes for the prize is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a perishable crown, but we for an imperishable crown.

26 Therefore I run thus: not with uncertainty. Thus I fight, not as one who beats the air.

27 But I discipline my body and bring it into subjection, lest, when I have preached to others, I myself should become disqualified.

28 I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.

29 Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day; and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing.

30 Those who love His appearing? Are those who are motivated by the eternal values of Christ?

Romans 12:12 (NKJV)
12 The night is far spent, the day is at hand. Therefore let us cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armor of light.

A wrong thing done in a wrong way is still wrong. Only a right thing done in the right way will God honor.

Why does God honor a right thing done in the right way? Because it is God who has revealed the right thing, and the right way to do that thing?

2 Peter 1:3-4 (NKJV)
3 As His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and grace,
4 by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, through these you may be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.

through these: in other words, according to the rules

Example: Worship is something we should be doing, but we must do it God's way

In worshipping God we do not release sin

If we are the ones who were deciding what works God is going to accept, and how they are performed, then the word of God has little value

We must remember, this is the very thing the Pharisees and scribes did

Matthew 23:27 (NKJV)
27 Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you are like whitewashed tombs which indeed appear beautiful outwardly, but inside are full of dead men's bones and all uncleanliness.

2 Timothy 2:3-5 (NKJV)
3 And the things that you have heard from me among many witnesses, commit these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.

4 No one engaged in warfare entangles himself with the affairs of this life, that he may please his minister.

5 And also if anyone competes in athletics, he is not crowned unless he competes according to the rules.

6 Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing.

7 Therefore we make it our aim, whether present or absent, to be well pleasing to Him.

1 John 2:28 (NKJV)
28 And now, little children, abide in Him, that when He appears, we may have confidence and not be ashamed before Him at His coming.

2 Timothy 4:8 (NKJV)
8 Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing.

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