

MILK GROWTH

Paul began with this special phrase that connects it with Titus 3:4-7 – “*This is a trustworthy statement.*” This is a special phrase used in the Pastoral Epistles (1 Tim.1:15; 3:1; 4:9; 2 Tim.2:11; Titus 3:8).

This phrase is important to our lesson on Milk Growth because it refers back to doctrines of grace salvation listed in 3:4-7.

We will study our lesson text by the following four homiletical points (3:8).

- Phrase – *This is a trustworthy statement.*
- Preaching – And concerning these things I want you to *speak confidently.*
- Production – So that those who have believed God may be called to *engage in good deeds.*
- Profitable – These things are *good and profitable.*

All the doctrines pertaining to grace salvation are essential for Milk Growth.

We will study FIVE aspects of how important the doctrines of grace salvation are for Milk Growth in the CWL (Christian way of life).

1. Milk doctrines of grace salvation are essential for the spiritual growth of the newly born believer in Jesus Christ (see 50 things of salvation - church web site – www.doctrinalstudies.com).

- (Heb.5: 12-13) “For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you have need again for someone to teach you the elementary principles of the oracles of God, and you have come to *need milk* and not solid food. For everyone who partakes only of milk is not accustomed to the word of righteousness, for he is a babe (6:1-2)
- (John 3:3) “Jesus answered and said to him, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.” (1 Pet.1: 23)
- (John 3:7) “Do not marvel that I said to you, ‘you must be born again.’”
- (Titus 3:5) “He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit.”

2. Cycling milk doctrines of salvation through the spiritual faith system is necessary to develop the church age believer from baby to adult spiritual growth status.

- There are two basic stages of spiritual growth: baby (milk) and adult (solid food).

(Heb.4: 13-14) “For everyone who partakes only *milk* is not accustomed to the word of righteousness, for is he is a *babe*. But *solid food* (meat) is for the *mature*, who because of practice have their senses trained to discern good and evil.”

(1 Pet.2: 2) “Like *newborn babes*, long for the *pure milk of the word*, **that by it you may grow in respect to salvation.**”

- Every church age believer starts the CWL equal in spiritual growth.

3. Every church age believer grows spiritually under the same principle of grace provisions for the CWL.

- (2 Pet.3: 18) “But *grow in the grace and knowledge* of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be glory, both now and to the day of eternity. Amen.”
- God freely gives each believer all that is necessary for his spiritual growth on the basis of grace and knowledge. The following are six examples of this principle.
 - Salvation (Eph.2:8-9; Rom.1:16)
 - Indwelling ministry of Holy Spirit (1 Cor.6:19-20; John 14:26; Gal.5:16)
 - Canon of Scriptures (2 Tim.2:14-15; 3:15-17)
 - Pastor-teacher (Eph.4:11-13; Heb.13:7, 17)
 - Logistics (Phil 4:19)
 - Assurance of eternal life (John 20:31; 1 John 5:11-13; 1 Pet.2:2)

4. Therefore spiritual growth development goes from baby on milk doctrines to an adult on meat doctrines (Matt.4: 4).

- When the believer has the assurance of his grace salvation based on the authority of the Scriptures, he is no longer a baby believer – (1 Pet.2: 2) **“Like newborn babes, long for the pure milk of the word, that by it you may grow in respect to salvation.”**
- (Heb.2: 14-15) “Since then the children share in flesh and blood, He Himself likewise also partook of the same, that through death He might render powerless him who had the power of death, that is, the devil; and might deliver those who through fear of death were subject to slavery all their lives.”
- The assurance that comes from confidence in the Word of God regarding the subject of eternal life of grace salvation frees from the fear of death and that form of slavery of cosmos diabolicus thinking.
- “This is a trustworthy saying (3:4-7). And I want you to stress these things, so that those who have trusted in God may be careful to devote themselves to doing what is good.” (Titus 3:8)

CONCLUSION

- What is the primary goal of the spiritual mature adult believer?
Write your answer on this line _____.
- Now read Eph.4: 13-15 and write the correct answer _____.
What happens in this process according to 4:14-15?
_____.
- Reaching and maintaining adult spiritual maturity in CWL equips the believer for daily victory in the angelic conflict (Eph.6:11-16; 1 Tim.6:12; 4:6-8; 1 John 2:13-14; 5:4-5).
- While there are stages to spiritual growth, there are no stages to spirituality.
 - A baby believer can be spiritual without a lot of bible doctrine by walking by means of the indwelling Holy Spirit (Gal.5: 16; 1 John 1:9).
 - A mature believer can be carnal with a lot of bible doctrine because he does not walk by means of the indwelling Holy Spirit (1 Cor.1: 4-7; 3:1-3).