



FRANKLIN ROAD

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NEWSLETTER

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WHAT'S NEXT?



THE CRUMPLED BOXES AND CRINKLED PAPER HAVE MADE THEIR JOURNEY FROM YOUR HOUSE TO THE CURB. THE BIG SALES ARE OVER. THE RETURN LINES ARE NEARLY NORMAL, AND THE TREE AND TRIMMINGS ARE COMING DOWN. CHRISTMAS IS OVER, AND THE HOLIDAYS ARE PAST. NOW WHAT? WHAT'S NEXT? WHAT DO YOU DO NOW THAT EVERYTHING IS DONE?

GROW!

CONSIDER THE BIBLICAL CHRISTMAS ACCOUNTS. ALL THE EXCITEMENT ENDS WITH THIS STATEMENT, "AND THE CHILD CONTINUED TO GROW AND BECOME STRONG, INCREASING IN WISDOM; AND THE GRACE OF GOD WAS UPON HIM." (LUKE 2:40). JESUS GREW! THAT'S ALL WE HAVE RECORDED ABOUT HIM FROM THE TIME HE WAS EIGHT DAYS OLD UNTIL HE WAS TWELVE. (SEE LUKE 2:41-42). KIND OF SEEMS LIKE A LEAP FROM NEWBORN TO ADOLESCENT . . . BUT GROWTH IS AN ESSENTIAL FEATURE. I THINK THERE MAY BE A CLUE FOR US HERE. AFTER ALL OF THE HOLIDAY HUSTLE AND BUSTLE MAYBE WE SHOULD FOCUS ON SOMETHING BASIC BUT NECESSARY LIKE GROWTH.

WE NEED TO GROW IN FAVOR WITH OTHERS. THIS WAS A CHARACTERISTIC DEMONSTRATED BY YOUNG SAMUEL IN I SAMUEL 2:26. "NOW THE BOY SAMUEL WAS GROWING IN STATURE AND IN FAVOR BOTH WITH THE LORD AND WITH MEN." HOW ARE WE DOING AT THIS? ARE WE FAVORABLE TO GOD? ARE WE GIVING UP SINS AND GAINING INSIGHTS INTO HIS WILL? AND THEN WHAT ABOUT OUR RELATIONSHIPS WITH MEN? ARE THERE SOME INTERPERSONAL SKILLS WE NEED TO IMPROVE?

WE ALSO NEED TO GROW IN GOD'S WORD. JEREMIAH 15:16 SAYS "YOUR WORDS WERE FOUND AND I ATE THEM, AND YOUR WORDS BECAME FOR ME A JOY AND THE DELIGHT OF MY HEART; FOR I HAVE BEEN CALLED BY YOUR NAME, O LORD GOD OF HOSTS." DO WE FIND DAILY DELIGHT IN GOD'S WORD? SINCE WE BEAR GOD'S NAME ARE WE GROWING AND NURTURING GODLINESS?

FINALLY, WE NEED TO GROW IN GRACE. THE BOOK OF II PETER CONCLUDES WITH THIS REMINDER, "BUT GROW IN THE GRACE AND KNOWLEDGE OF OUR LORD AND SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST. TO HIM BE THE GLORY, BOTH NOW AND TO THE DAY OF ETERNITY. AMEN." THE CHRISTIANS BEING ADDRESSED BY PETER WERE GOING THROUGH VERY DIFFICULT PERSECUTIONS AND PERILS, BUT THEY WERE ENCOURAGED TO KEEP GROWING IN GOD'S GRACE. HOW ARE WE HANDLING ADVERSARIES AND ADVERSITIES? DO WE DEMONSTRATE A GROWTH IN GRACE?

THE EXCITEMENT OF CHRISTMAS MAY BE GONE BUT AN ESSENTIAL FOR CHRISTIANS IS GROWTH. GROW! WHO KNOWS WHAT SPRING MAY BRING?

LOOKING UP!

PASTOR CHUCK CIRCLE