

June - 2017
† Only, Always, Jesus! †

In these last months, I have been blessed to hold quite a few babies! Talk about a joy! We are so blessed at Trinity with young ones! Thank you, Lord!

Moms might disagree about the best age to wean a baby, but they all agree that sooner or later, little Bubba's gotta get his milk elsewhere! *It's part of growing up.* In the blink of an eye, that child seems to go from baby to toddler to teen! Then, if they are like my kids, you can't keep the pantry stocked! It's simple biology really: as your body changes, so does your diet.

Growing up physically has many parallels to growing up spiritually. The child of God grows in the grace and knowledge of Christ (2 Peter 3:18). The Lord does not wish you to remain a child, tossed here and there by the waves, and carried about by every wind of doctrine (Ephesians 4:14). Indeed, Paul finishes up in verse 15, "*Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ.*"

The only means, the only way, by which a person becomes a "*babe in Christ,*" a believer, is by the Gospel! The Good News of the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus *for you!* That Gospel is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes!

Here is where we get our minds, our rational thinking in the way – watch out! Since the Gospel is the means by which a person becomes a child of God, when they grow up spiritually, they move beyond that simple, Gospel, right?

That milk of Good News might be ok for a babe in Christ, but as you mature, you've got to put the milk away. Do you really need to hear again and again, that Jesus lived a perfect life for your flawed life? That Jesus died in your place on the cross? That Jesus rose from the dead that you might have life? Surely once you've heard and believed the Gospel, the goal now is to learn more and more about the Law of God! Mature into a commandment keeping, law loving, obedient disciple of Jesus!! Right?

Sure . . . if you want to live a life of disappointment and despair! You are more than welcome to go beyond the Gospel – BUT – what you will find on the other side of that Good News is only bad news.

The only maturity you get – if you get too big, too '*spiritual*' to need the forgiving, life-sustaining undeserved love of Jesus every hour of the day, is the maturity of a Pharisee. Ouch! Jesus didn't get along too well with them!

Christians are never weaned off the Gospel!

Never! Jesus is our milk, our soft food, our solid food, our every meal, no matter where we are in our growth as a Child of God.

As long as you are on this side of the grave, you will fall flat on your face as you try to live an obedient Christian life. And where do you land when you fall? On the crucified body of Jesus! He will stand you up, clean you off, wash you, forgive you, lead you on!

Where else would you go? He has the words of eternal life!

Pastor Bert