

Living the Gospel:

Applying the good news to our lives & the church's life

Healing = Maturity

August 18, 2013

- I. **If sickness = sin, and doctor = savior, then healing = maturity.**

So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ. (Ephesians 4:11-13)

- II. **We expect the doctor to heal us. We should expect the Savior to mature us.**

- A. If we disregard the doctor's advice we won't get well.
- B. If we disregard the Savior's instructions we won't mature.

...though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you the elementary truths of God's word all over again. You need milk, not solid food! Anyone who lives on milk, being still an infant, is not acquainted with the teaching about righteousness. But solid food is for the

mature, who by constant use have trained themselves to distinguish good from evil. Therefore let us move beyond the elementary teachings about Christ and be taken forward to maturity... (Hebrews 5:12-6:1a)

- III. **Jesus uses all sorts of things to prod us toward maturity.**

Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything. (James 1:2-4)

- IV. **This has implications for us!**

- A. Are you satisfied with your walk with Christ?
- B. Can you see how you have matured?
- C. What do you lack?
- D. How can your church help you?

...be on your guard so that you may not be carried away by the error of the lawless and fall from your secure position. But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and forever! Amen. (2 Peter 3:17b-18)