

25 February 2018

## Essential ingredients for Christian growth Pt.9 Grow in sound doctrine & in the knowledge of Christ.

This is our ninth study on our topic – Essential ingredients for Christian growth. In our previous teaching we established the need to grow in faith, which takes place during periods of trial and temptations. In this study we will cover the need to be no more children tossed about with every wind of doctrine. but grow in sound doctrine and in the knowledge of Christ.

Scriptures upon which this teaching is founded.

### 1. Be no more children tossed about with every wind of doctrine.

“That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men...whereby they lie in wait to deceive” (Eph.4: 14).

There will come a time when believers will not endure sound doctrine (2Tim.4: 3) and will “depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils” (1Tim.4: 1). You will know them by their fruits – they will move from one church to another, from one denomination to another, and some will even join religions like the Hari Krishna.

### 2. Speak the truth in love that ye may grow up into Him in all things.

“But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ” (Eph 4:15).

“But speak thou the things which become sound doctrine” (Tit.2: 1, see also 2Thes.2: 10).

### 3. Grow in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

“But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ” (2Pet.3: 18).

The Lord Jesus Christ of the scriptures is NOT the same Jesus as the Jehovah Witness, or the Mormons, or any other cult that claim to be Christian but believe in “another Jesus” (2Cor.11: 4).

Additional comments.

When a child of God is fed from the scriptures by a teacher who is set in the body of Christ by God (1Cor.12: 28) and are taught sound doctrine, they will desire to speak the truth in love, and consequently will grow in grace and in the knowledge of Christ.

Applying the teaching to our life today.

I spent 16 years in a Presbyterian church and my closest friend that was with me during that time later left the Presbyterian church and went to the Roman Catholic church because he recognised that the Pope spoke more on love than the leaders of the traditional Protestant churches.

Question to think about.

How can a believer get baptised into the Roman Catholic church, attend Mass and be convinced that they attend a Christian church?

My answer to our question from the scriptures.

\* When they do not have the scriptures, do not sit under teachers that believe the scriptures (which is the case in the Presbyterian church – as their ministers are taught Greek and Hebrew from which they correct the scriptures of truth), and therefore are not being fed “sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables” (2Tim.4: 3 & 4).

\* When they are seduced to believe that love is more important than truth (Tit.1: 14).

Let us remember that an essential ingredient for Christian growth is to “be not children in understanding...but in understanding be men” (1Cor.14: 20), and “grow up unto Him in all things” – in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen!