

# Daily View

*“But exhort one another every day, as long as it is called ‘today’” Hebrews 3:13*

August 13, 2020

## Where are you on the “door jamb...?”

It's up there with the saddest sights I have ever seen. It was at Helen Greiwe's house. Helen is the sweet lady I've mentioned before, the mother of Stanley, my best friend, when I was 8 and 9 years old. The sight that shocked and saddened me was a boy my age (9 years old) laying in a crib. His head was huge, but his body was very small, almost like a baby, and his movements were baby-like. Helen cared for him every day during the week while his mother went to work. This was just another arrow of many in the quiver of Helen's Christ-like character.

The child suffered from a birth defect that kept him from growing normally and seeing him left a lasting mark on me. He was doomed to be like this for the rest of his short life.

The only thing sadder than this is the impaired growth of a Christian. The writer of Hebrews puts it this way:

For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you again the basic principles of the oracles of God. You need milk, not solid food, for everyone who lives on milk is unskilled in the word of righteousness, since he is a child. But solid food is for the mature, for those who have their powers of discernment trained by constant practice to distinguish good from evil. Hebrews 5:11-14

*“By this time...”* The writer makes the practical observation that time in service really *is* a factor. God knows how long it's been since we were baptized, and it matters. There is a level of knowledge and understanding that we should have reached after awhile.

Instead some have stalled. What happens when an airplane stalls? The pilot receives a loud alarm and if he doesn't make a correction, the plane will crash and burn. The writer is sounding the alarm. He's saying, “you've stalled — get back to it!”

The process of growth in Christ is called “edification.” The church's main mission is edification. Evangelism and benevolence are important, but building each other up through teaching and training in the the word is, by far, the chief aim of the church. We are to help each other grow. We are to teach, admonish, encourage and exhort each other — to push and challenge each other to keep on keeping on, to run the race, to discipline ourselves, with the aim of getting Christ deeper into our minds and hearts. We are to “... exhort one another every day, as long as it is called ‘today’” (Hebrews 13:3). The church — the collective

body — is to be an engine of growth. But in the end, each of us will answer as individuals for our level of development, wherever it may be.

*So, how are we doing?*

As our grandkids (and other kids in the church) were growing up, we kept track of their physical growth by marking their height, at various intervals, on the door jamb in Christie's sewing room. What if God is measuring and marking our spiritual growth on a “door jamb” in His house? What would it show? Have we grown? Or have we stalled? The writer of Hebrews encourages his readers: *“But we are **not** of those who shrink back and are destroyed, but of those who have faith and preserve their souls.”* Hebrews 10:39

I'm convinced that the poor little undeveloped boy is in heaven with a new body (Philippians 3:21). His lack of growth was not his fault. But we can't say the same thing about our spiritual development, can we? And the present crisis is no excuse to stop growing and helping each other grow. It is especially important that we help each other and that each person takes ownership of his or her growth during this time when the church is not able to provide as much edification as we wish.



The door jamb in Christie's sewing room, where our grandchildren were measured to check their growth