

Growth Marks (Maturity)

Children want to grow

- 'When I get big...'
- Boy wants to be a man...
- When does this occur?



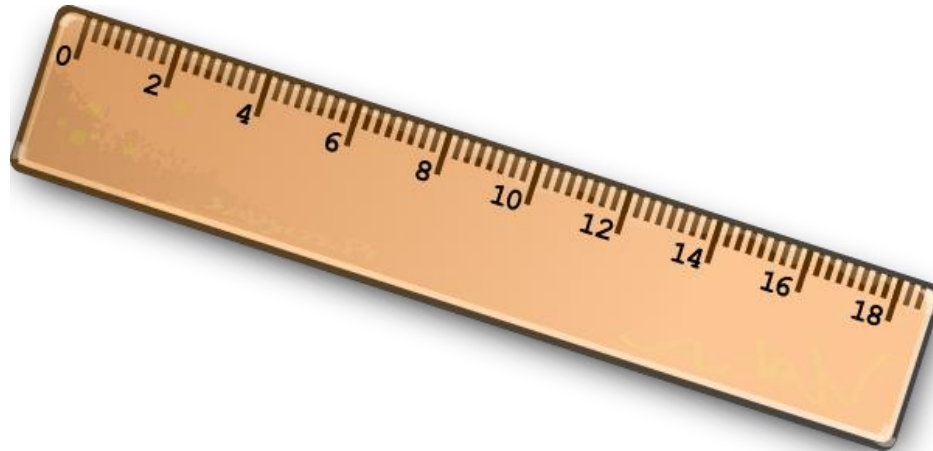
Visit congregation after five years...

- Children have grown...
- 1 Co.3:1-3; 14:20
- Acts 18, Corinth. . .Acts 19, Ephesus
 - Physical babies have grown

You are only young once, but you
can stay immature indefinitely

1. Are we growing and maturing?
2. How to know? – Growth marks

I. God-Sufficient



DOES NOT . . .

- ◇ Rely on preacher / elders to stay the course.
- ◇ Need begging sermons to obey.
- ◇ Need constant attention from brethren to stay faithful.
- ◇ Get defensive when corrected.
Ga.6:1; Hb.10:24-25.

**Who propped up
Paul?**

Phil.1:13...16-18

**Mature are
conscious of faults**

Ja.5:19-20

MATURE PEOPLE RELY ON GOD

If Bible says it, that settles it

◇ Gn.12:1-3, Abraham: life of faith

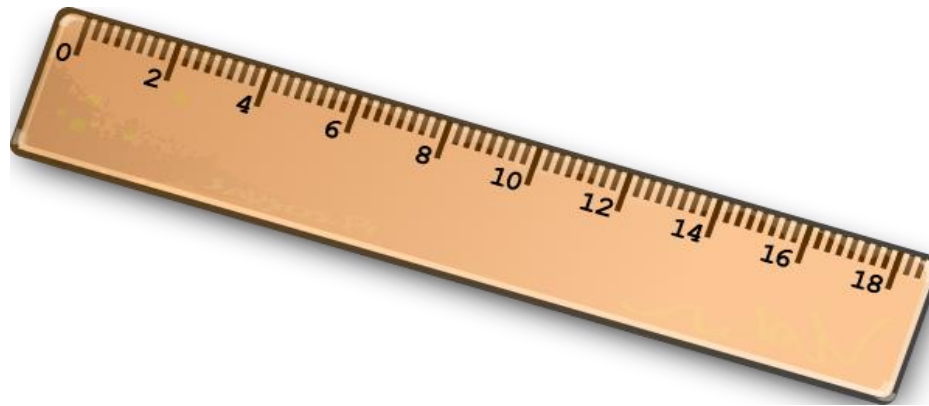
◇ Mt.19, RYR: life of sight

□ Ph.3:13, *straining forward* (ESV)

Exert oneself to the uttermost,
stretch out, strain

I. God-Sufficient

II. Stands For Truth



Unmoved if truth . . .

- Cuts family ties. Mt.10:34-37
- Costs lives. Mt.21. 2 Co.12:15
- Casts out of synagogues. Jn.9; 16

Purpose:

not made to
stumble
(keep you from
falling away)

Problem:

put you out of
synagogues
(expelled –
or even killed)

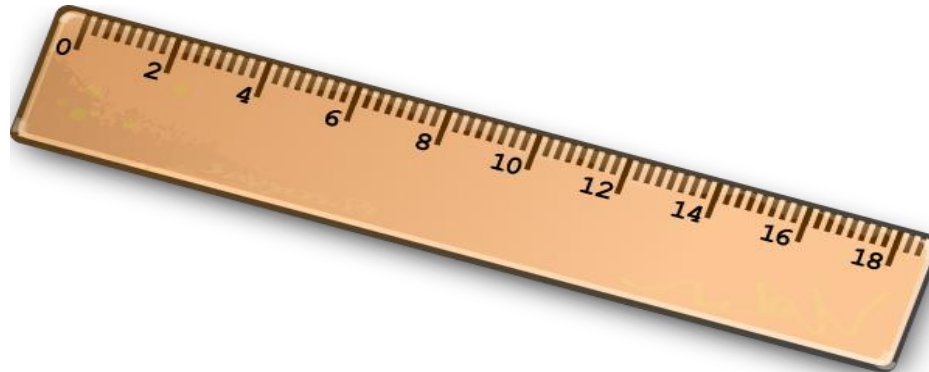
Unmoved if truth . . .

- Cuts family ties. Mt.10:34-37
- Costs lives. Mt.21. 2 Co.12:15
- Casts out of synagogues. Jn.9; 16
- Causes extra work. 2 Co.11:28

I. God-Sufficient

II. Stands For Truth

III. Ever-increasing
Knowledge Of Scripture



Mt.13:52, scribes

Able to draw lessons from OT/NT

Hb.5:11-14, students

1. Dull of hearing (hard of hearing)
2. Time . . . (losing ground)
3. First principles
4. Milk . . . strong meat
5. Unskillful (inexperienced)
6. Exercised (takes work)

No one grows strong
without good diet

2 Pt.3:18 – Ro.10:17

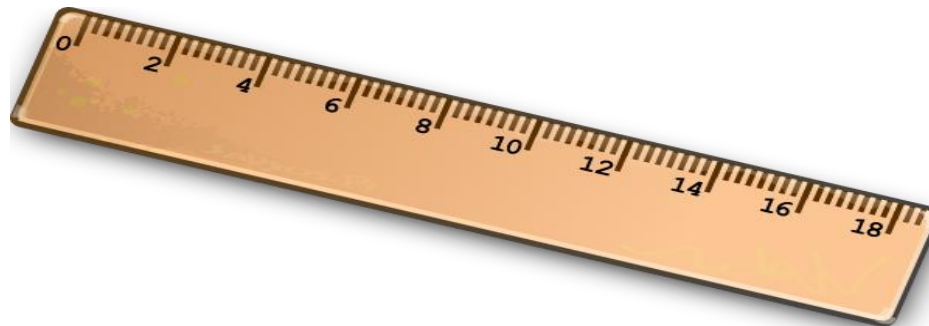
- ❑ Baby can eat only what he is given – depends on others
- ❑ Baby grows – learns what to eat, what to avoid
- ❑ Practical application: daily reading schedule

I. God-Sufficient

II. Stands For Truth

III. Ever-increasing Knowledge Of Scripture

IV. Covets Correction



No excuses

Maturity comes when you stop making excuses and start making changes

“The lazy man says, ‘There is a lion outside! I shall be slain in the streets’” – Pr.22:13.

'Ain't seen nothing yet'

- John 1⁵¹, Nathanael
- John 6⁶², 'Disciples'

'Ain't seen
nothing yet'

Nathanael changed his mind;
would see greater good things

'Disciples' rejected truth; would
see greater evil consequences

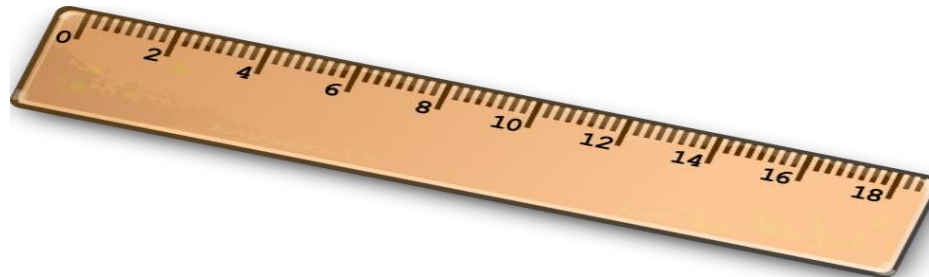
I. God-Sufficient

II. Stands For Truth

III. Ever-increasing Knowledge Of Scripture

IV. Covets Correction

V. Genuine Concern For Others



SAINTS

Paul's writes letters of concern

SINNERS

Limits liberties for benefit of others,
1 Co.9:19-23

I. God-Sufficient

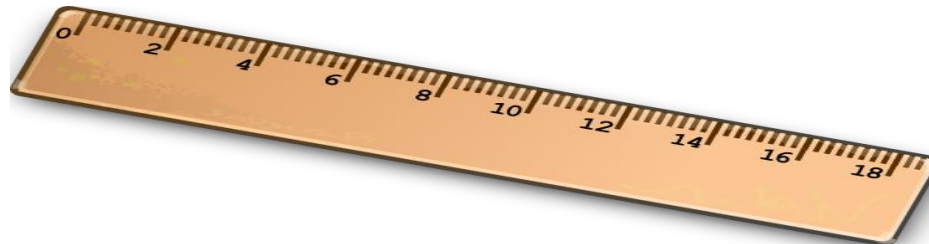
II. Stands For Truth

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V. Genuine Concern For Others

VI. Perseverance



Jer.20:7-9

1 K.19

Ph.3:12-14

1. Paul would retire...when he died.
2. In spite of pain, persecution, losses, kept going to the end.
3. Always striving for maturity...like a baby