

INTRODUCTION.

- A. Scripture text: **1Corinthians 16:1-4**.
- B. In the reading above we see that a special need arose in Jerusalem, and Paul asked the Xians at Corinth to help out. When came through Corinth later he could pick up the monies on his way.
- C. From time to time we are asked to fill special needs. Ex: a death has occurred, a stranded motorist, someone is sick, etc.
- D. Jesus as a boy grew in four different ways. We should see this over-all picture of growth and look deeper and see how we can meet these same needs in the people around us.
- E. According to Luke 2:52 Jesus grew:
 1. In wisdom.
 2. In stature.
 3. In favor of God.
 4. In favor of men.

I. MEETING NEEDS IS TO GROW IN WISDOM.

- A. The wisdom which really helps is not public education. The wisdom that is from above is what is most important (Jas. 3:15-17).
- B. This wisdom is so important because worldly wisdom cannot find God (1Cor. 1:21-25).
- C. When man decides he can become truly wise apart from God, he then becomes a fool (Rom. 1:22).
- D. Ex: the farmer asking the scientist about the universal solvent (what are you going to put it in?).
- E. Our meeting the special needs of others in this area will be to help people to grow in grace and the knowledge of God which is found in the Bible (2Pet. 3:18).

II. MEETING NEEDS IS TO GROW PHYSICALLY.

- A. All men and women grow in stature until physical maturity is reached. If our bodies continue to grow after that it is excess.
- B. We are to glorify God in our bodies. How we conduct ourselves in relationship to our physical bodies is important (1Cor. 6:18-20).
- C. There is a "war" going on between the lusts of the flesh and the desires of the soul or spirit. We must keep the body in subjection (Rom. 7:22-25).
- D. Paul said that he continually beat his body into subjection (1Cor. 9:26,27).
- E. Real beauty comes from what is inside, not what is outside. Women are cautioned to keep this priority. Wear clothing that is appropriate (1Tim. 2:9-10).

III. MEETING NEEDS IS TO GROW SPIRITUALLY.

- A. Because of sin, which is after the flesh, Paul could not speak in spiritual terms to the Corinthian brethren (1Cor. 3:1-3).
- B. Our daily life is spiritual worship to God, if we live it according to the example of X (Rom. 12:1-2).
- C. Those who are not spiritual in nature will be caught up in sin. Those who are however spiritual and can discern between good and evil are to help restore the one who has fallen away (Gal. 6:1-2; Heb. 5:14).
- D. We must remember that the church is a spiritual house. It is made up of people who want to do things that are spiritual (1Pet. 2:5).

IV. MEETING NEEDS IS TO GROW SOCIALLY.

- A. This is quite difficult because people who grow up in a particular social-economic environment will probably stay in that same environment their whole life.

- B. But social growth is all important in being a good Xian, and in being able to speak to others about X (1Cor. 9:20-23).
- C. Jesus kept the social customs of the day, and participated in them without sinning (Jn. 2:1-4; 13:14-15; Mt. 26:49).
- D. Sharing about one another's lives can be up-building for the cause of X (1Th. 2:8).
- E. But some customs are against the moral code of X, and Xians cannot follow them. We must then keep one another pure by not letting mere fad, and passing customs rule our lives (Rom. 12:2; 1Pet. 3:13-16).

CONCLUSION AND INVITATION.

- A. As fellow brothers and sisters in X must help one another in these areas.
- B. When one of our number becomes "backwards" in these areas, we limit our growth, and effectiveness in sharing the gospel.
- C. Jesus grew in all ways, and left us a perfect example that we might follow in His footsteps (1Pet. 2:21).
- D. Let us give to one another in these special ways, that we might grow.
- E. Plan of salvation for non-Xians; erring Xians.