

## Jesus: Our Perfect Standard

by Gene Taylor Centerville Rd church of Christ Tallahassee, FL

"And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men." ([Luke 2:52](#))

There are many outstanding traits that Jesus possessed that would be good for all of us to have as part of our basic character. As a child, he was subject to His parents ([Luke 2:51](#); [Eph. 6:1](#); [Col. 3:20](#)). He was about His Father's business at an early age, i.e., He was interested in spiritual things while just a youth ([Luke 2:49](#); [Eccl. 12:1](#)). He lived, not selfishly, but for others ([Mark 10:45](#); [Phil. 2:4](#)). He accomplished God's will in His life ([John 6:38](#)). He left an example that all can follow ([1 Pet. 2:21](#)).

In this article, though, we want to look at His development that is related in Luke 2:52. The four areas in which Jesus grew that are revealed in that passage -- wisdom, stature, favor with men, and favor with God -- are those areas we must emphasize as we look to our own lives.

### Wisdom

To advance in wisdom is to grow intellectually or mentally. Wisdom is "the quality of being wise; the power of judging rightly and following the soundest course of action, based on knowledge, experience, understanding." Wisdom's importance is emphasized by Solomon in Proverbs 3:13-26.

While one should give attention, especially when young, to his education, he should "give diligence" (2 Tim. 2:15) to gain knowledge of the Bible. A good understanding of its teachings is far more valuable than an education at the finest academic institutions.

### Stature

To advance in stature is to develop physically. Jesus developed a strong, healthy body. Our bodies are to be instruments of our service (Rom. 12:1; 6:12-13) and temples of God (1 Cor. 6:18-20).

There are three essentials to a strong body: eat proper food, exercise moderately (1 Tim. 4:8) and keep it free from diseases.

### Favor with Men

This is to develop socially. It has to do with human beings living together as a group in a situation which requires they have dealings with one another. Man is created a social being: to live one with the other. It is not in man's nature to live alone (Gen. 2:18). He is to be a gregarious being.

We need to learn to love people. It makes it easy to live with them. Jesus associated with all kinds of people -- publicans, sinners, Samaritans -- because He loved them (John 3:16). Jesus always tried to influence those with whom He associated to be better people setting the proper example of behavior before them.

### Favor with God

This is the spiritual development that ought to characterize every child of God. The importance and value of the soul is seen in Matthew 16:26 where it is shown to be of greater value than all the amassed wealth to be found in the world.

Basically, the essentials for spiritual development are the same as those for physical growth: proper food, exercise and freedom from disease. The correct spiritual food is the Bible (Acts 20:32; 1 Pet. 2:1-2). Spiritual exercise is the application of the word of God to one's life which results in proper character development and worthwhile service to the Lord and others. Freedom from disease is being pure and "unspotted from the world" (Jas. 1:27) by keeping one's lusts in check.

## NEWSLETTER

Dec. 02, 2018

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## Schedule of Services

Sunday AM Bible Study	9:45 AM
Sunday AM Worship	11:00 AM
No Sunday PM Service	
Tuesday Ladies' Bible Study	10:00 AM
Wednesday PM Bible Study	7:00 PM

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### We welcome all who are here today.

If you are a visitor we are honored to have you with us. Please fill out a *Visitor Card* (on the back of the pew in front of you) so we may have a record of your visit. Later in the service we will pass around a collection plate. As a visitor you are obviously not expected to give but we would like for you to place the *Visitor Card* in the collection plate. Thanks.

*There is a nursery at the rear of the auditorium up the stairs for infant care.*

**Please keep cell phones and other noise making devices silent during worship.**



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## Friendly Reminder - BLUE LIGHT

When the “blue light” is lit at the front of the auditorium it means “Quiet Please”

**Prayers** *In our prayers let's praise God, recognize His greatness, and thank Him for His blessings.*

**Bruce Brink** is scheduled for oral surgery Dec. 12<sup>th</sup>.

**Wayne Lynum** has been dealing with shingles.

**Eileen Johnson**, Cora Parson's daughter in law, was admitted to Buffalo General Hospital Nov. 12<sup>th</sup>. She was in rehab for a little while and is now back home. She thanks everyone for the prayers on her behalf.

**Red Crowe** was in the hospital recently with COPD issues. He was discharged Nov. 16<sup>th</sup> but continues to struggle with breathing. On Thanksgiving day he went back into the hospital.

**Gloria Zachery** is still undergoing tests and looking at treatment options. She thanks everyone for the prayers on her behalf.

**Betty Lauricia**, Anna Brink's sister in PA, went to the emergency room Nov. 19 in pain because of kidney stones. They can't do anything about it right now and she was told she would have to pass them.

**Elaine Fees**, Rick Fees' sister in law, has been in Buffalo General recently experiencing seizures.

**Let's pray as we continue our preacher search process.**

*Also*

Let's pray for our members that have ongoing health and other issues.

Let's pray for family, friends, and loved ones of our members who are having health and other issues.

Let's not only remember those that are physically sick but those that are spiritually sick as well.

Let's remember to pray for our shut-ins and to call and send cards.

Let's pray for those dealing with family situations as well as work situations.

Let's pray for those dealing with weather related disasters.

Let's pray for those of our number who are looking for employment.

Let's pray for those that are traveling. May they have a safe journey.

Let's pray for God's people that are doing mission work all over the world.

Let's pray for people the world over that we may all learn to get along with each other.

## **Upcoming Events** *(Lord willing)*

**Dec. 09** Payment for Ladies Holiday Party due.  
Please see Denise Garlitz.

**Dec. 15** Ladies Holiday Party at Antonio's at NOON.

**Dec. 16** Men's Business Meeting

**Dec. 24** Christmas Eve

**Dec. 25** Christmas Day

**Dec. 30** NO Area Wide 5th Sunday Singing

**Dec. 31** New Year's Eve



2 Timothy 2:15

## **Classes and Sermon**

Sun. AM Adult Bible Study Hebrews

**Sermon Topic Today:** It Ain't That Hard

**Scripture Reading:** Matthew 4.18-22

No Sun. PM Bible Study

Tuesday Ladies' Bible Study 10 AM at the building.

Wed. PM Bible Study 1<sup>st</sup> Kings

## **Serving Today**

**Announcements** Wayne Carter

**Song Leader** Rodney Jones

**Direct Communion** Ron Cameron

**Serve** Wayne Carter

**Serve** Richard Wheeler

**Serve** Noah Bennett

**Clean Trays** Kris Kinney



## **HELP NEEDED!**

The latest issue of *House to House/Heart to Heart* has arrived and is ready for us to mail to our neighbors around the LaSalle church building.

We have over 1,000 copies of the brochure that need folding and labeling.

Join us for a labeling party on **Wednesday, December 5<sup>th</sup> at 10 AM** here at the church building. Please continue to pray for open and receptive hearts in the homes we will be mailing to.

## **Listen!**

by Joe Slater Preacher at Justin church of Christ Justin, TX

**“The way of a fool is right in his own eyes, but he who heeds counsel is wise”** (Proverbs 12:15).

My parents had a funny little plaque hanging on a wall in our house. It pictured a grumpy-looking face with this inscription: “My mind is made up. Don't confuse me with facts!”

Doesn't everyone do what they have made up their mind is right? If they didn't think it was right, they wouldn't do it! But Solomon said that even a fool's way is right in his own eyes. That doesn't mean we're always wrong, but we're not always right either. If we're wise, we'll pay heed to counsel.

In another proverb Solomon wrote, *“Plans are established by counsel; by wise counsel wage war”* (20:18). No king, president, or general worth his salt engages in a war without seeking sound advice from wise counselors. The same point is clarified in 24:6 – *“For by wise counsel you will wage your own war, and in a multitude of counselors there is safety.”*

We see the wisdom of seeking counsel in a military context; can we not see it as well in day-to-day life as a soldier of Christ? Of course our most trusted counsel is from the Lord. He is our *“wonderful counselor”* (Isaiah 9:6), and His inspired word is the *“counsel of God”* (Acts 20:27).

But Solomon's point was not limited to counsel from God and His word. Brothers and sisters who know the Lord, know and respect His word, and have experienced the ups and downs of life can provide us with valuable advice if we will only ask and then listen.

No matter how intelligent you are, you don't know it all! Seek wise counsel. Ask for it. And listen!