

Advancing in Life

In Luke 2:52, the scriptures tell us that “Jesus advanced in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men.” The term “advance” is defined as “to strike forward, cut forward a way,” i.e., to make progress.” This progress may be good, or it may be evil. In the case of our Lord he advanced positively in four realms of life.

Jesus advanced in “wisdom.” Wisdom “is the insight into the true nature of things,” and “stature.” Robertson’s Word picture has this to say, “he kept cutting his way forward as through a forest or jungle as pioneers did. He kept growing in stature (may mean age, as in Luke 12:25, but stature here) and in wisdom (more than mere knowledge).” His physical, intellectual, moral and spiritual development was perfect. “At each stage he was perfect for that stage” (Plummer). Thus, Jesus advanced mentally and physically.

Jesus also advanced “in favor with God and men.” Solomon, when instructing his son, indicated how such favor is acquired: “My son, forget not my law; But let thy heart keep my commandments: For length of days, and years of life, and peace, will they add to thee. Let not kindness and truth forsake thee: Bind them about thy neck; Write them upon the tablet of thy heart: So shalt thou find favor and good understanding in the sight of God and man” (Proverbs 3:1-4).

Thus, Jesus advanced physically, mentally, spiritually and socially.

We must always be attuned to the direction of our advancement in life, the direction in which we “strike forward, cut forward a way, i.e., make progress.”

The apostle Paul said to Timothy, “But evil men and impostors shall wax worse and worse, deceiving and being deceived” (2 Timothy 3:13), “the progress of evil men and impostors, “shall wax,” lit., “shall advance to the worse” (W. E. Vine’s). Are we advancing in the right direction?

Remember the words of the apostle Paul, who said, “And this, knowing the season, that already it is time for you to awake out of sleep: for now is salvation nearer to us than when we [first] believed. The night is far spent, and the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armor of light” (Romans 13:11-12).