

A Dead Turkey

As it turns out, turkey is not just a Thanksgiving treat but is often used as a main dish at family get-togethers throughout all of the year-end holiday celebrations. So, there is the time a lady was picking through the frozen turkeys at the grocery store but couldn't find one big enough for her family. She asked a stock boy, "Do these turkeys get any bigger?" The stock boy replied, "No ma'am, they're dead." I know... that was weak, but the point should be well taken: if we are not growing, obviously we are dead.

Peter would exhort, "*as newborn babes, desire the pure milk of the word, that you may grow thereby*" (1 Peter 2:2). Our pursuit of God's Word and its application will produce evidence of growth. Paul told Timothy to "*meditate on these things ("to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine," v. 13); give yourself entirely to them, that your progress may be evident to all*" (1 Timothy 4:15). Being alive in Christ mandates a steady diet of Divine Will and, as we assimilate and apply this new data, we will progressively become more like Christ (Romans 12:1-2).

Likewise, the Hebrew writer would castigate his audience for their lax attitude toward maturing as Christians. "*For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you again the first principles of the oracles of God; and you have come to need milk and not solid food. For everyone who partakes only of milk is unskilled in the word of righteousness, for he is a babe*" (Hebrews 5:12-13). How is it possible to "*give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you*" (1 Peter 3:15) if you haven't matured to the point of knowing why you have this hope?

As we journey through and enjoy these holiday seasons and as the end of another year draws near, we have a great opportunity to incorporate some new habits. Frankly, it should be a right-now decision. Why not begin a daily Bible reading *today*? Who says one has to wait until the beginning of the New Year? Why not rededicate yourself to assembly-attendance and be there *this next Sunday* (because, if the Lord comes before the New Year...?). What a great example you would be to other Christians and to the community! Why not generate your own visitation plan, seeking out those who are in the hospital or shut in? How encouraging it would be to receive a card or a phone call, just a Christian at work for the Lord letting a brother or sister know that you care. Why not ask an elder for a work of the church in which you can be involved. Can you imagine the impact it would have on the church here if everyone who is idle began to be active?

And, besides, no one wants to be a dead turkey. Let's grow (Ephesians 4:15)!