

# God Does Not Grow Or Increase

*Promise: What our Lord Jesus in the flesh accomplishes He shares with us*

Pastor Timothy A. Duesenberg

1 Kings 3:4-15; Psalm 119:97f; Ephesians 1:3-14; Luke 2:40-52  
(Second Sunday after Christmas, 1/5/20)

*And the child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom. And the favor of God was upon him. – v. 40*

**Lead In** – A 5<sup>th</sup> century Patriarch of Alexander by the name of Cyril cautioned readers: “Do not think to yourself, ‘How can God grow?’ ‘How can he who gives grace to angels and men receive fresh wisdom?’ The Evangelist Luke did not introduce the eternal Son of God in his abstract and incorporeal nature! It is only after having shown that he was born in the flesh of a woman and took our likeness that he says of him that “he increased in wisdom and stature...”

## I. Human Beings Grown and Increase In Wisdom

- A. Human life starts with conception...
- B. Birth, infancy, childhood, adolescence...
- C. One glimpse at late childhood, early adolescence!

## II. While In Jerusalem At Age 12

- A. The holy family went to Jerusalem every year...
- B. At 12 already an exceptional teacher...
- C. The **Father's** house and honoring father and...

## III. The Mystery of the God/Man Is Crucial!

- A. Explanation of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Article of the Creed...
- B. In undivided unity each shares with the other...
- C. Guess who teaches us how we are to learn?

**Parting Shot** – Jesus does for our human nature what we cannot do for ourselves. Because we have been sinful and rebellious, we are also lacking in faith and slow to learn. But as the Apostle Paul declares, “He is made our wisdom and our righteousness and sanctification and redemption.” And when by faith we receive this, Jesus becomes for us everything we lack in ourselves, namely our wisdom and our righteousness and sanctification and redemption.

**Mat 1:20** Behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit.

**Lk 1:31** And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus.

**Heb 4:15** For we have not a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin.

**Lk 4:16** And he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up. And as was his custom, he went to the synagogue on the Sabbath day, and he stood up to read.

# Luke 2:40-52 ESV

*The Boy Jesus in the Temple*

<sup>40</sup>And the child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom. And the favor of God was upon him.

<sup>41</sup>Now his parents went to Jerusalem every year at the Feast of the Passover. <sup>42</sup>And when he was twelve years old, they went up according to custom. <sup>43</sup>And when the feast was ended, as they were returning, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem. His parents did not know it, <sup>44</sup>but supposing him to be in the group they went a day's journey, but then they began to search for him among their relatives and acquaintances, <sup>45</sup>and when they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem, searching for him. <sup>46</sup>After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. <sup>47</sup>And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. <sup>48</sup>And when his parents saw him, they were astonished. And his mother said to him, “Son, why have you treated us so? Behold, your father and I have been searching for you in great distress.” <sup>49</sup>And he said to them, “Why were you looking for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?” <sup>50</sup>And they did not understand the saying that he spoke to them. <sup>51</sup>And he went down with them and came to Nazareth and was submissive to them. And his mother treasured up all these things in her heart.

<sup>52</sup>And Jesus increased in wisdom and in stature and in favor with God and man.

**Fourth Command:** Honor your father and your mother.

**2<sup>nd</sup> Article Expl:** I believe that Jesus Christ – true God, Son of the Father from eternity, and true man, born of the Virgin Mary – is my Lord.

**Jerome (5<sup>th</sup> cent exegete):** It is not so much that the Son was instructed by the Father, but that his human nature was instructed by his own divinity.

Mary learns from her twelve-year-old son, not as her child, but as her God!

**1 Cor 1:30** He is the source of your life in Christ Jesus, whom God made our wisdom and our righteousness and sanctification and redemption.

# God Does Not Grow Or Increase

*Promise: What our Lord Jesus in the flesh accomplishes He shares with us*

Pastor Timothy A. Duesenberg

1 Kings 3:4-15; Psalm 119:97f; Ephesians 1:3-14; Luke 2:40-52  
(Second Sunday after Christmas, 1/5/20)

*And the child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom. And the favor of God was upon him. – v. 40*

**Lead In** – A 5<sup>th</sup> century Patriarch of Alexander by the name of Cyril cautioned readers: “Do not think to yourself, ‘How can God grow?’ ‘How can he who gives grace to angels and men receive fresh wisdom?’ The Evangelist Luke did not introduce the eternal Son of God in his abstract and incorporeal nature! It is only after having shown that he was born in the flesh of a woman and took our likeness that he says of him that “he increased in wisdom and stature...”

## I. Human Beings Grown and Increase In Wisdom

- A. Human life starts with conception...
- B. Birth, infancy, childhood, adolescence...
- C. One glimpse at late childhood, early adolescence!

## II. While In Jerusalem At Age 12

- A. The holy family went to Jerusalem every year...
- B. At 12 already an exceptional teacher...
- C. The **Father's** house and honoring father and...

## III. The Mystery of the God/Man Is Crucial!

- A. Explanation of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Article of the Creed...
- B. In undivided unity each shares with the other...
- C. Guess who teaches us how we are to learn?

**Parting Shot** – Jesus does for our human nature what we cannot do for ourselves. Because we have been sinful and rebellious, we are also lacking in faith and slow to learn. But as the Apostle Paul declares, “He is made our wisdom and our righteousness and sanctification and redemption.” And when by faith we receive this, Jesus becomes for us everything we lack in ourselves, namely our wisdom and our righteousness and sanctification and redemption.

**Mat 1:20** Behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit.

**Lk 1:31** And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus.

**Heb 4:15** For we have not a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin.

**Lk 4:16** And he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up. And as was his custom, he went to the synagogue on the Sabbath day, and he stood up to read.

# Luke 2:40-52 ESV

*The Boy Jesus in the Temple*

<sup>40</sup>And the child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom. And the favor of God was upon him.

<sup>41</sup>Now his parents went to Jerusalem every year at the Feast of the Passover. <sup>42</sup>And when he was twelve years old, they went up according to custom. <sup>43</sup>And when the feast was ended, as they were returning, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem. His parents did not know it, <sup>44</sup>but supposing him to be in the group they went a day's journey, but then they began to search for him among their relatives and acquaintances, <sup>45</sup>and when they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem, searching for him. <sup>46</sup>After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. <sup>47</sup>And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. <sup>48</sup>And when his parents saw him, they were astonished. And his mother said to him, “Son, why have you treated us so? Behold, your father and I have been searching for you in great distress.” <sup>49</sup>And he said to them, “Why were you looking for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?” <sup>50</sup>And they did not understand the saying that he spoke to them. <sup>51</sup>And he went down with them and came to Nazareth and was submissive to them. And his mother treasured up all these things in her heart.

<sup>52</sup>And Jesus increased in wisdom and in stature and in favor with God and man.

**Fourth Command:** Honor your father and your mother.

**2<sup>nd</sup> Article Expl:** I believe that Jesus Christ – true God, Son of the Father from eternity, and true man, born of the Virgin Mary – is my Lord.

**Jerome (5<sup>th</sup> cent exegete):** It is not so much that the Son was instructed by the Father, but that his human nature was instructed by his own divinity.

Mary learns from her twelve-year-old son, not as her child, but as her God!

**1 Cor 1:30** He is the source of your life in Christ Jesus, whom God made our wisdom and our righteousness and sanctification and redemption.