

第二篇

藉着在生命裏長大以至於成熟，
而為着主的來臨將自己豫備好

詩歌：

讀經：來六 1，弗四 13，西一 27～29，四 12，
啓十四 1～5

- 來 6:1 所以，我們既離開了那論到基督之開端的話，就當竭力前進，達到完全、成熟，不再立根基，就是悔改脫開死行，信靠神，
- 弗 4:13 直到我們眾人都達到了信仰上並對神兒子之完全認識上的一，達到了長成的人，達到了基督豐滿之身材的度量，
- 西 1:27 神願意叫他們知道，這奧祕的榮耀在外邦人中是何等的豐富，就是基督在你們裏面成了榮耀的盼望；
- 西 1:28 我們宣揚祂，是用全般的智慧警戒各人，教導各人，好將各人在基督裏成熟的獻上；
- 西 1:29 我也為此勞苦，照着祂在我裏面大能的運行，竭力奮鬥。
- 西 4:12 有你們那裏的人，作基督耶穌奴僕的以巴弗問你們安；他在禱告中常為你們竭力奮鬥，要你們得以成熟，站立得住，在神一切的旨意上滿有確信。
- 啓 14:1 我又觀看，看哪，羔羊站在錫安山上，同祂還有十四萬四千人，額上都寫着祂的名，和祂父的名。
- 啓 14:2 我聽見從天上有聲音，像眾水的聲音，又像大雷的聲音，並且我所聽見的，好像彈琴的所彈的琴聲。
- 啓 14:3 他們在寶座前，並在四活物和眾長老前唱新歌；除了從地上買來的那十四萬四千人以外，沒有人能學這歌。
- 啓 14:4 這些人未曾與婦女在一起受到玷污，他們原是童身。羔羊無論往那裏去，他們都跟隨祂。他們是從人間買來的，作初熟的果子歸與神和羔羊；
- 啓 14:5 在他們口中找不着謊言，他們是沒有瑕疵的。

壹 雅各在雅各書用農夫恆忍等候地裏寶貴的
出產為例證—五 7：

- 雅 5:7 所以，弟兄們，你們要恆忍，直到主的來臨。看哪，農夫等候地裏寶貴的出產，為此恆忍，直到得了秋雨春雨。

Message Two

**Making Ourselves Ready for the Lord's Coming
by Growing in Life unto Maturity**

Hymns:

Scripture Reading: Heb. 6:1; Eph. 4:13; Col. 1:27-29; 4:12; Rev. 14:1-5

- Heb. 6:1 Therefore leaving the word of the beginning of Christ, let us be brought on to maturity, not laying again a foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith in God,
- Eph. 4:13 Until we all arrive at the oneness of the faith and of the full knowledge of the Son of God, at a full-grown man, at the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ,
- Col. 1:27 To whom God willed to make known what are the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory,
- Col. 1:28 Whom we announce, admonishing every man and teaching every man in all wisdom that we may present every man full-grown in Christ;
- Col. 1:29 For which also I labor, struggling according to His operation which operates in me in power.
- Col. 4:12 Epaphras, who is one of you, a slave of Christ Jesus, greets you, always struggling on your behalf in his prayers that you may stand mature and fully assured in all the will of God.
- Rev. 14:1 And I saw, and behold, the Lamb standing on Mount Zion, and with Him a hundred and forty-four thousand, having His name and the name of His Father written on their foreheads.
- Rev. 14:2 And I heard a voice out of heaven like the sound of many waters and like the sound of loud thunder; and the voice which I heard was like the sound of harp-singers playing on their harps.
- Rev. 14:3 And they sing a new song before the throne and before the four living creatures and the elders; and no one could learn the song except the hundred and forty-four thousand, who have been purchased from the earth.
- Rev. 14:4 These are they who have not been defiled with women, for they are virgins. These are they who follow the Lamb wherever He may go. These were purchased from among men as firstfruits to God and to the Lamb.
- Rev. 14:5 And in their mouth no lie was found; they are without blemish.

I. **In his Epistle, James uses the illustration of a farmer awaiting with long-suffering the precious fruit of the earth—5:7:**

- James 5:7 Therefore be long-suffering, brothers, until the coming of the Lord. Behold, the farmer eagerly awaits the precious fruit of the earth, exercising long-suffering over it until it receives the early and late rain.

一主耶穌實際上就是真農夫，獨一的農夫—太十三3。

太 13:3 祂就用比喻對他們講許多事，說，看哪，那撒種的出去撒種。

二當我們在恆忍等候主的來臨時，祂這位真農夫也在忍耐等候我們在生命裏成熟，成為田地初熟的果子和莊稼—啓十四4，14～15。

啓 14:4 這些人未曾與婦女在一起受到玷污，他們原是童身。羔羊無論往那裏去，他們都跟隨祂。他們是從人間買來的，作初熟的果子歸與神和羔羊；

啓 14:14 我又觀看，看哪，有一片白雲，雲上坐着一位好像人子，頭上戴着金冠冕，手裏拿着快鐮刀。

啓 14:15 又有一位天使從殿中出來，向那坐在雲上的大聲喊着說，伸出你的鐮刀來收割，因為收割的時候到了，地上的莊稼已經熟了。

三我們若禱告說，『主，求你快回來，』主可能說，『當你們在等候我回來時，我也在等候你們成熟；惟有你們成熟了，纔能催促我回來。』

四我們若認真等候主回來，就需要在生命上長大以至於成熟；這種領會對我們有極大的幫助。

貳 成熟就是得着基督成形在我們裏面—加四 19:

加 4:19 我的孩子們，我為你們再受生產之苦，直等到基督成形在你們裏面。

一我們信入基督時，基督已經生在我們裏面；（約三6，15～16；）祂現今在我們基督徒的生活中，活在我們裏面；（加二 20；）祂還要在我們成熟時，成形在我們裏面（四 19）：

約 3:6 從肉體生的，就是肉體；從那靈生的，就是靈。

約 3:15 叫一切信入祂的都得永遠的生命。

約 3:16 神愛世人，甚至將祂的獨生子賜給他們，叫一切信入祂的，不至滅亡，反得永遠的生命。

加 2:20 我已經與基督同釘十字架；現在活着的，不再是我，乃是基督在我裏面活着；並且我如今在肉身裏所活的生命，是我在神兒子的信裏，與祂聯結所活的，祂是愛我，為我捨了自己。

加 4:19 我的孩子們，我為你們再受生產之苦，直等到基督成形在你們裏面。

A. The Lord Jesus is actually the real Farmer, the unique Farmer—Matt. 13:3.

Matt. 13:3 And He spoke many things to them in parables, saying, Behold, the sower went out to sow.

B. While we are awaiting with long-suffering the Lord's coming, He, as the real Farmer, is awaiting with patience our maturity in life as the firstfruits and the harvest of the field—Rev. 14:4, 14-15.

Rev. 14:4 These are they who have not been defiled with women, for they are virgins. These are they who follow the Lamb wherever He may go. These were purchased from among men as firstfruits to God and to the Lamb.

Rev. 14:14 And I saw, and behold, there was a white cloud, and on the cloud One like the Son of Man sitting, having a golden crown on His head and a sharp sickle in His hand.

Rev. 14:15 And another angel came out of the temple, crying with a loud voice to Him who sat on the cloud, Send forth Your sickle and reap, for the hour to reap has come because the harvest of the earth is ripe.

C. If we pray, “Lord, come back quickly,” the Lord may say, “While you are awaiting My coming back, I am awaiting your maturity; only your maturity can hasten My coming back.”

D. It is a great help for us to realize that if we are serious about awaiting the Lord's coming back, we need to grow in life unto maturity.

II. To be mature is to have Christ formed in us—Gal. 4:19:

Gal. 4:19 My children, with whom I travail again in birth until Christ is formed in you,

A. Christ was born in us when we believed into Him (John 3:6, 15-16), He lives in us in our Christian life (Gal. 2:20b), and He will be formed in us at our maturity (4:19):

John 3:6 That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.

John 3:15 That everyone who believes into Him may have eternal life.

John 3:16 For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that everyone who believes into Him would not perish, but would have eternal life.

Gal. 2:20 I am crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but it is Christ who lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live in faith, the faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me.

Gal. 4:19 My children, with whom I travail again in birth until Christ is formed in you,

1 變化的最後階段乃是成熟，就是生命的豐滿：

a 神永遠的定旨，只能藉着我們的變化和成熟來完成一創一 26，西一 28，二 19，四 12。

創 1:26 神說，我們要按着我們的形像，照着我們的樣式造人，使他們管理海裏的魚、空中的鳥、地上的牲畜、和全地、並地上所爬的一切爬物。

西 1:28 我們宣揚祂，是用全般的智慧警戒各人，教導各人，好將各人在基督裏成熟的獻上；

西 2:19 不持定元首；本於祂，全身藉着節和筋，得了豐富的供應，並結合一起，就以神的增長而長大。

西 4:12 有你們那裏的人，作基督耶穌奴僕的以巴弗問你們安；他在禱告中常為你們竭力奮鬥，要你們得以成熟，站立得住，在神一切的旨意上滿有確信。

b 成熟乃是我們一再得着神聖的生命分賜到我們裏面，直到我們有了生命的豐滿—約十 10 下。

約 10:10 賊來了，無非是要偷竊、殺害、毀壞；我來了，是要叫羊得生命，並且得的更豐盛。

2 成熟乃在於度量的擴充—詩四 1：

詩 4:1 顯我為義的神阿，我呼求的時候，求你應允我；我在窘困中，求你使我寬廣；求你恩待我，聽我的禱告。

a 生命成熟是接受聖靈管治的總和—來十二 5 ~ 11。

來 12:5 你們竟全然忘了那勸勉的話，就是對你們如同對兒子所講論的，說，『我兒，你不可輕看主的管教，被祂責備的時候，也不可灰心；

來 12:6 因為主所愛的，祂必管教，又鞭打凡所收納的兒子。』

來 12:7 為了受管教，你們要忍受。神待你們如同待兒子；那有兒子是父親不管教的？

來 12:8 只是你們若不受眾子所共受的管教，就是私生子，不是兒子了。

來 12:9 再者，我們曾有肉身的父管教我們，我們尚且敬重他們，何況萬靈的父，我們豈不更當服從祂而得活着麼？

來 12:10 肉身的父是在短暫的日子裏，照自己以為好的管教我們，惟有萬靈的父管教我們，是為了我們的益處，使我們有分於祂的聖別。

來 12:11 一切的管教，當時固然不覺得喜樂，反覺得愁苦；後來卻給那藉此受過操練的人，結出平安的義果。

b 人只看見一個人生命成熟，卻未看見那人歷年逐日暗中所接受加起來的聖靈管治—林後一 8 ~ 10，創

1. The last stage of transformation is maturity, the fullness of life:

a. God's eternal purpose can be accomplished only through our transformation and maturity—Gen. 1:26; Col. 1:28; 2:19; 4:12.

Gen. 1:26 And God said, Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of heaven and over the cattle and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth.

Col. 1:28 Whom we announce, admonishing every man and teaching every man in all wisdom that we may present every man full-grown in Christ;

Col. 2:19 And not holding the Head, out from whom all the Body, being richly supplied and knit together by means of the joints and sinews, grows with the growth of God.

Col. 4:12 Epaphras, who is one of you, a slave of Christ Jesus, greets you, always struggling on your behalf in his prayers that you may stand mature and fully assured in all the will of God.

b. Maturity is a matter of having the divine life imparted into us again and again until we have the fullness of life—John 10:10b.

John 10:10 The thief does not come except to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life and may have it abundantly.

2. Maturity is a matter of the enlargement of capacity—Psa. 4:1:

Psa. 4:1 When I call out, answer me, / O God of my righteousness; / Make room for me when I am in straits; / Be gracious to me and hear my prayer.

a. Maturity in life is the sum total of receiving the discipline of the Holy Spirit—Heb. 12:5-11.

Heb. 12:5 And you have completely forgotten the exhortation which reasons with you as with sons, "My son, do not regard lightly the discipline of the Lord, nor faint when reproved by Him;

Heb. 12:6 For whom the Lord loves He disciplines, and He scourges every son whom He receives."

Heb. 12:7 It is for discipline that you endure; God deals with you as with sons. For what son is there whom the father does not discipline?

Heb. 12:8 But if you are without discipline, of which all sons have become partakers, then you are illegitimate and not sons.

Heb. 12:9 Furthermore we have had the fathers of our flesh as discipliners and we respected them; shall we not much more be in subjection to the Father of spirits and live?

Heb. 12:10 For they disciplined for a few days as it seemed good to them; but He, for what is profitable that we might partake of His holiness.

Heb. 12:11 Now no discipline at the present time seems to be a matter of joy, but of grief; but afterward it yields the peaceable fruit of righteousness to those who have been exercised by it.

b. Others may see a person who has matured in life, but they cannot see the accumulated discipline of the Holy Spirit which that person has received

四七 7, 10。

林後 1:8 弟兄們，關於我們在亞西亞所遭遇的患難，我們不願意你們不知道，就是我們被壓太重，力不能勝，甚至連活命的指望都絕了，

林後 1:9 自己裏面也斷定是必死的，叫我們不信靠自己，只信靠那叫死人復活的神；

林後 1:10 祂曾救我們脫離那極大的死亡，並且仍要救我們，我們指望祂將來還要救我們，

創 47:7 約瑟領他父親雅各進去，站在法老面前，雅各就給法老祝福。

創 47:10 雅各又給法老祝福，就從法老面前出去了。

3 神要主宰的用人、事、物倒空原本充滿我們的一切，除去我們先入的一切，使我們的度量增加，好被神充滿——路 1:53，太 5:6。

路 1:53 叫飢餓的得飽美物，叫富足的空着回去。

太 5:6 飢渴慕義的人有福了，因為他們必得飽足。

二我們要在神聖的兒子名分上成熟，成為成年的兒子，就需要讓基督成形在我們裏面——加 4:4~5，羅 8:15，弗 1:5：

加 4:4 及至時候滿足，神就差出祂的兒子，由女子所生，且生在律法以下，

加 4:5 要把律法以下的人贖出來，好叫我們得着兒子的名分。

羅 8:15 你們所受的不是奴役的靈，仍舊害怕；所受的乃是兒子名分的靈，在這靈裏，我們呼叫：阿爸，父。

弗 1:5 按着祂意願所喜悅的，豫定了我們，藉着耶穌基督得兒子的名分，歸於祂自己，

1 從我們得重生的時候起，主就一直在我們裏面作工，使我們有祂的形像——林後 3:18，羅 8:29。

林後 3:18 但我們眾人既然以沒有帕子遮蔽的臉，好像鏡子觀看並返照主的榮光，就漸漸變化成為與祂同樣的形像，從榮耀到榮耀，乃是從主靈變化成的。

羅 8:29 因為神所豫知的人，祂也豫定他們模成神兒子的形像，使祂兒子在許多弟兄中作長子。

2 等到主把祂的形像完全作到我們裏面，祂也從我們裏面完全彰顯出來的時候，我們就生命成熟了——弗 3:16~17。

弗 3:16 願祂照着祂榮耀的豐富，藉着祂的靈，用大能使你們得以加強到裏面的人裏，

弗 3:17 使基督藉着信，安家在你們心裏，叫你們在愛裏生根立基，

secretly day by day throughout the years—2 Cor. 1:8-10; Gen. 47:7, 10.

2 Cor. 1:8 For we do not want you to be ignorant, brothers, of our affliction which befell us in Asia, that we were excessively burdened, beyond our power, so that we despaired even of living.

2 Cor. 1:9 Indeed we ourselves had the response of death in ourselves, that we should not base our confidence on ourselves but on God, who raises the dead;

2 Cor. 1:10 Who has delivered us out of so great a death, and will deliver us; in whom we have hoped that He will also yet deliver us,

Gen. 47:7 And Joseph brought in Jacob his father and set him before Pharaoh, and Jacob blessed Pharaoh.

Gen. 47:10 And Jacob blessed Pharaoh and went forth from Pharaoh's presence.

3. God will sovereignly use persons, things, and events to empty us of everything that has filled us and to take away every preoccupation so that we may have an increased capacity to be filled with God—Luke 1:53; Matt. 5:6.

Luke 1:53 The hungry He has filled with good things, and the rich He has sent away empty.

Matt. 5:6 Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.

B. Christ being formed in us is needed that we may mature in the divine sonship and be sons of full age—Gal. 4:4-5; Rom. 8:15; Eph. 1:5:

Gal. 4:4 But when the fullness of the time came, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under law,

Gal. 4:5 That He might redeem those under law that we might receive the sonship.

Rom. 8:15 For you have not received a spirit of slavery bringing you into fear again, but you have received a spirit of sonship in which we cry, Abba, Father!

Eph. 1:5 Predestinating us unto sonship through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will,

1. Since the time of our regeneration, the Lord has been working in us so that we may have His image—2 Cor. 3:18; Rom. 8:29.

2 Cor. 3:18 But we all with unveiled face, beholding and reflecting like a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, even as from the Lord Spirit.

Rom. 8:29 Because those whom He foreknew, He also predestinated to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the Firstborn among many brothers;

2. When the Lord has fully worked His image into us and is fully expressed through us, we will be mature in life—Eph. 3:16-17.

Eph. 3:16 That He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with power through His Spirit into the inner man,

Eph. 3:17 That Christ may make His home in your hearts through faith, that you, being rooted and grounded in love,

三在新約聖經裏，『成熟』這辭用於指信徒在他們重生時所得着之神的生命上長成、成熟並得以完全：

1 我們絕不該自滿自足，乃要追求在基督的生命裏長大成熟；我們需要往前，竭力前進，達到成熟，忘記背後，努力面前的，追求對基督完滿的享受並贏得基督，好在千年國裏對基督有極點的享受一腓三 12 ~ 15。

腓 3:12 這不是說，我已經得着了，或已經完全了，我乃是竭力追求，或者可以取得基督耶穌所以取得我的。

腓 3:13 弟兄們，我不是以為自己已經取得了，我只有的一件事，就是忘記背後，努力面前的，

腓 3:14 向着標竿竭力追求，要得神在基督耶穌裏，召我向上去得的獎賞。

腓 3:15 所以我們凡是長成的人，都要思念這事；你們若思念任何別的事，神也必將這事啓示你們。

2 在屬靈生命上成熟的先決條件，就是在神聖生命裏一直長大—弗四 15。

弗 4:15 惟在愛裏持守着真實，我們就得以在一切事上長到祂，就是元首基督裏面；

3 信徒在基督生命裏長大成熟的最終結果乃是長成的人—召會作基督的身體，長成一個成熟的人—13 節。

弗 4:13 直到我們眾人都達到了信仰上並對神兒子之完全認識上的一，達到了長成的人，達到了基督豐滿之身材的度量，

叁 保羅盡職的目標，乃是要將各人在基督裏成熟的獻上，好成功一個新人—西一 28 ~ 29，三 10 ~ 11：

西 1:28 我們宣揚祂，是用全般的智慧警戒各人，教導各人，好將各人在基督裏成熟的獻上；

西 1:29 我也為此勞苦，照着祂在我裏面大能的運行，竭力奮鬥。

西 3:10 並且穿上了新人；這新人照着創造他者的形像漸漸更新，以致有充足的知識；

西 3:11 在此並沒有希利尼人和猶太人、受割禮的和未受割禮的、化外人、西古提人、為奴的、自主的，惟有基督是一切，又在一切之內。

C. As used in the New Testament, the word mature refers to the believers' being full-grown, mature, and perfected in the life of God, which they received at the time of regeneration:

1. We should never be content with ourselves but should pursue growth and maturity in the life of Christ; we need to go on, to be brought on, to maturity by forgetting the things which are behind and stretching forward to the things which are before, pursuing toward the fullest enjoyment and gaining of Christ for the uttermost enjoyment of Christ in the millennial kingdom—Phil. 3:12-15.

Phil. 3:12 Not that I have already obtained or am already perfected, but I pursue, if even I may lay hold of that for which I also have been laid hold of by Christ Jesus.

Phil. 3:13 Brothers, I do not account of myself to have laid hold; but one thing I do: Forgetting the things which are behind and stretching forward to the things which are before,

Phil. 3:14 I pursue toward the goal for the prize to which God in Christ Jesus has called me upward.

Phil. 3:15 Let us therefore, as many as are full-grown, have this mind; and if in anything you are otherwise minded, this also God will reveal to you.

2. The prerequisite for maturity in the spiritual life is to grow continually in the divine life—Eph. 4:15.

Eph. 4:15 But holding to truth in love, we may grow up into Him in all things, who is the Head, Christ,

3. The ultimate issue of the believers' growth and maturity in the life of Christ is the full-grown man—the church as the Body of Christ growing into a mature man—v. 13.

Eph. 4:13 Until we all arrive at the oneness of the faith and of the full knowledge of the Son of God, at a full-grown man, at the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ,

III. The goal of Paul's ministry was to present every man mature, full-grown, in Christ for the one new man—Col. 1:28-29; 3:10-11:

Col. 1:28 Whom we announce, admonishing every man and teaching every man in all wisdom that we may present every man full-grown in Christ;

Col. 1:29 For which also I labor, struggling according to His operation which operates in me in power.

Col. 3:10 And have put on the new man, which is being renewed unto full knowledge according to the image of Him who created him,

Col. 3:11 Where there cannot be Greek and Jew, circumcision and uncircumcision, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free man, but Christ is all and in all.

一歌羅西一章二十八節裏譯為『成熟』的辭，也可譯為『長成』、『完全』或『完整』。

西 1:28 我們宣揚祂，是用全般的智慧警戒各人，教導各人，好將各人在基督裏成熟的獻上；

二保羅的職事乃是要將基督分賜到人裏面，使他們在基督裏長大成熟，得以完全並完整—弗四 13。

弗 4:13 直到我們眾人都達到了信仰上並對神兒子之完全認識上的一，達到了長成的人，達到了基督豐滿之身材的度量，

三我們越進入基督裏面，祂就越進入我們裏面；祂越進入我們裏面，我們就越進入祂裏面；藉着這循環，我們就得以在生命裏長大—西一 27～28。

西 1:27 神願意叫他們知道，這奧祕的榮耀在外邦人中是何等的豐富，就是基督在你們裏面成了榮耀的盼望；

西 1:28 我們宣揚祂，是用全般的智慧警戒各人，教導各人，好將各人在基督裏成熟的獻上；

四我們向罪人傳福音，並與聖徒交通，其目標乃是將基督供應到他們裏面，使他們在生命裏成熟，而得以在祂裏面成熟的獻上—三 10～11，弗四 13～14。

西 3:10 並且穿上了新人；這新人照着創造他者的形像漸漸更新，以致有充足的知識；

西 3:11 在此並沒有希利尼人和猶太人、受割禮的和未受割禮的、化外人、西古提人、為奴的、自主的，惟有基督是一切，又在一切之內。

弗 4:13 直到我們眾人都達到了信仰上並對神兒子之完全認識上的一，達到了長成的人，達到了基督豐滿之身材的度量，

弗 4:14 使我們不再作小孩子，為波浪漂來漂去，並為一切教訓之風所搖蕩，這教訓是在於人的欺騙手法，在於將人引入錯誤系統的詭詐作為；

肆我們要豫備好被提，就需要在生命裏成熟—太二四 40～41：

太 24:40 那時，兩個人在田裏，取去一個，撇下一個。

太 24:41 兩個女人在磨坊推磨，取去一個，撇下一個。

一被提乃是神在生命裏完全救恩終極完成的步驟，就是我們身體的改變形狀，得贖—羅五 10，八 23，腓三 21：

羅 5:10 因為我們作仇敵的時候，且藉着神兒子的死得與神和好，

A. The Greek word rendered “full-grown” in 1:28 may also be translated “perfect,” “complete,” or “mature.”

Col. 1:28 Whom we announce, admonishing every man and teaching every man in all wisdom that we may present every man full-grown in Christ;

B. Paul's ministry was to dispense Christ into others so that they would be perfect and complete by maturing in Christ unto full growth—Eph. 4:13.

Eph. 4:13 Until we all arrive at the oneness of the faith and of the full knowledge of the Son of God, at a full-grown man, at the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ,

C. The more we get into Christ, the more He comes into us; and the more He comes into us, the more we get into Him; it is by this cycle that we grow in life—Col. 1:27-28.

Col. 1:27 To whom God willed to make known what are the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory,

Col. 1:28 Whom we announce, admonishing every man and teaching every man in all wisdom that we may present every man full-grown in Christ;

D. Our goal in preaching the gospel to sinners and in fellowshiping with the saints is to minister Christ into them so that they may mature in life and be presented full-grown in Him—3:10-11; Eph. 4:13-14.

Col. 3:10 And have put on the new man, which is being renewed unto full knowledge according to the image of Him who created him,

Col. 3:11 Where there cannot be Greek and Jew, circumcision and uncircumcision, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free man, but Christ is all and in all.

Eph. 4:13 Until we all arrive at the oneness of the faith and of the full knowledge of the Son of God, at a full-grown man, at the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ,

Eph. 4:14 That we may be no longer little children tossed by waves and carried about by every wind of teaching in the sleight of men, in craftiness with a view to a system of error,

IV. To be ready for rapture we need the maturity in life—Matt. 24:40-41:

Matt. 24:40 At that time two men will be in the field; one is taken and one is left.

Matt. 24:41 Two women will be grinding at the mill; one is taken and one is left.

A. The rapture is the consummating step of God's full salvation in life—the transfiguration, the redemption, of our body—Rom. 5:10; 8:23; Phil. 3:21:

Rom. 5:10 For if we, being enemies, were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more we

既已和好，就更要在祂的生命裏得救了。

羅 8:23 不但如此，就是我們這有那靈作初熟果子的，也是自己裏面歎息，熱切等待兒子的名分，就是我們的身體得贖。

腓 3:21 祂要按着祂那甚至能叫萬有歸服自己的動力，將我們這卑賤的身體改變形狀，使之同形於祂榮耀的身體。

1 因着我們裏面所得神聖生命的要求，又因我們向主之愛的迫切，我們就願追求過一種等候主來的生活——帖前 1:10，二 19，三 13，四 15，五 23。

帖前 1:10 並且等候祂的兒子從諸天降臨，就是祂從死人中所復活，那拯救我們脫離要來忿怒的耶穌。

帖前 2:19 我們主耶穌來臨的時候，我們在祂面前的盼望、喜樂、或所誇的冠冕是甚麼？不就是你們麼？

帖前 3:13 好使你們的心，當我們主耶穌同祂眾聖徒來臨的時候，在我們的神與父面前，得以堅固，在聖別上無可指摘。

帖前 4:15 我們現在憑着主的話，告訴你們這件事，就是我們這些活着還存留到主來臨的人，絕不能在那已經睡了的人之先；

帖前 5:23 且願和平的神，親自全然聖別你們，又願你們的靈、與魂、與身子得蒙保守，在我們主耶穌基督來臨的時候，得以完全，無可指摘。

2 當我們愛主並等候祂來時，我們就盼望被提到主的同在裏——太 24:40-41，路 17:31-36，二 36。

太 24:40 那時，兩個人在田裏，取去一個，撇下一個。

太 24:41 兩個女人在磨坊推磨，取去一個，撇下一個。

路 17:31 當那日，人在房頂上，器具在屋子裏，不要下來拿；在田地裏的，也照樣不要回去。

路 17:32 你們要回想羅得的妻子。

路 17:33 凡想要保全魂生命的，必喪失魂生命；凡喪失魂生命的，必使魂生命得以存活。

路 17:34 我告訴你們，當那一夜，兩個人在一個牀上，要取去一個，撇下一個。

路 17:35 兩個女人在一處推磨，要取去一個，撇下一個。

路 17:36 兩個人在田裏，要取去一個，撇下一個。

路 21:36 但你們要時時儆醒，常常祈求，使你們得勝，能逃避這一切要發生的事，得以站立在人子面前。

二成熟不是一夜之間的事；為着主的來臨，我們必須豫備自己，愛祂並在祂裏面長大，使我們在祂顯現時得以成熟被提——啓 14:1-5。

啓 14:1 我又觀看，看哪，羔羊站在錫安山上，同祂還有十四萬四千人，額上都寫着祂的名，和祂父的名。

啓 14:2 我聽見從天上有聲音，像眾水的聲音，又像大雷的聲音，並且我所聽見的，好像彈琴的所彈的琴聲。

will be saved in His life, having been reconciled,

Rom. 8:23 And not only so, but we ourselves also, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan in ourselves, eagerly awaiting sonship, the redemption of our body.

Phil. 3:21 Who will transfigure the body of our humiliation to be conformed to the body of His glory, according to His operation by which He is able even to subject all things to Himself.

1. Because of the demand of the divine life that we have received and because of the intensity of our love toward the Lord, we desire to pursue a life that awaits the Lord's coming—1 Thes. 1:10; 2:19; 3:13; 4:15; 5:23.

1 Thes. 1:10 And await His Son from the heavens, whom He raised from the dead, Jesus, who delivers us from the wrath which is coming.

1 Thes. 2:19 For what is our hope or joy or crown of boasting before our Lord Jesus at His coming? Are not even you?

1 Thes. 3:13 So that He may establish your hearts blameless in holiness before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all His saints.

1 Thes. 4:15 For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are living, who are left remaining unto the coming of the Lord, shall by no means precede those who have fallen asleep;

1 Thes. 5:23 And the God of peace Himself sanctify you wholly, and may your spirit and soul and body be preserved complete, without blame, at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

2. As we love the Lord and await His coming, we hope to be raptured to the presence of the Lord—Matt. 24:40-41; Luke 17:31-36; 21:36.

Matt. 24:40 At that time two men will be in the field; one is taken and one is left.

Matt. 24:41 Two women will be grinding at the mill; one is taken and one is left.

Luke 17:31 In that day, he who will be on the housetop and his goods in the house, let him not come down to take them away; and he who is in the field, likewise, let him not turn back to the things behind.

Luke 17:32 Remember Lot's wife.

Luke 17:33 Whoever seeks to preserve his soul-life will lose it, and whoever loses it will preserve it alive.

Luke 17:34 I tell you, In that night there will be two on one bed; the one will be taken and the other will be left.

Luke 17:35 There will be two women grinding together; the one will be taken but the other will be left.

Luke 17:36 Two men will be in the field; one will be taken and the other will be left.

Luke 21:36 But be watchful at every time, beseeching that you would prevail to escape all these things which are about to happen and stand before the Son of Man.

B. To become matured is not an overnight matter; for the Lord's coming, we need to prepare ourselves, love Him, and grow in Him so that at His appearing we may be mature to be raptured—Rev. 14:1-5.

Rev. 14:1 And I saw, and behold, the Lamb standing on Mount Zion, and with Him a hundred and forty-four thousand, having His name and the name of His Father written on their foreheads.

Rev. 14:2 And I heard a voice out of heaven like the sound of many waters and like the sound of loud thunder; and the voice which I heard was like the sound of harp-singers playing on their harps.

啓 14:3 他們在寶座前，並在四活物和眾長老前唱新歌；除了從地上買來的那十四萬四千人以外，沒有人能學這歌。

啓 14:4 這些人未曾與婦女在一起受到玷污，他們原是童身。羔羊無論往那裏去，他們都跟隨祂。他們是從人間買來的，作初熟的果子歸與神和羔羊；

啓 14:5 在他們口中找不着謊言，他們是沒有瑕疵的。

三成熟的標記包括以下各項—來六 1:

來 6:1 所以，我們既離開了那論到基督之開端的話，就當竭力前進，達到完全、成熟，不再立根基，就是悔改脫開死行，信靠神，

1 被那改變我們的神聖生命所充滿—弗三 19。

弗 3:19 並認識基督那超越知識的愛，使你們被充滿，成爲神一切的豐滿。

2 在生命中作王—羅五 17。

羅 5:17 若因一人的過犯，死就藉着這一人作了王，那些受洋溢之恩，並洋溢之義恩賜的，就更要藉着耶穌基督一人，在生命中作王了。

3 能喫乾糧—來五 12 ~ 14。

來 5:12 按時間說，你們該作教師；可是你們還需要有人將神諭言開端的要綱教導你們；並且成了那必須用奶，不能喫乾糧的人。

來 5:13 凡只能享用奶的，對公義的話都是沒有經驗的，因爲他是嬰孩；

來 5:14 只有長成的人，纔能喫乾糧，他們的官能因習用而受了操練，就能分辨好壞了。

4 在領悟上成熟—林前十四 20。

林前 14:20 弟兄們，在領悟上不要作小孩子，但在惡事上要作嬰孩，在領悟上卻要成熟。

5 得以完全，像我們的天父完全一樣—太五 48。

太 5:48 所以你們要完全，像你們的天父完全一樣。

6 看見身體，認識身體，活在身體裏並爲身體而活，顧到身體，以及尊重身體—弗四 13 ~ 16。

弗 4:13 直到我們眾人都達到了信仰上並對神兒子之完全認識上的一，達到了長成的人，達到了基督豐滿之身材的度量，

弗 4:14 使我們不再作小孩子，爲波浪漂來漂去，並爲一切教訓之風所搖蕩，這教訓是在於人的欺騙手法，在於將人引入錯誤系統的詭詐作爲；

弗 4:15 惟在愛裏持守着真實，我們就得以在一切事上長到祂，就是元首基督裏面；

Rev. 14:3 And they sing a new song before the throne and before the four living creatures and the elders; and no one could learn the song except the hundred and forty-four thousand, who have been purchased from the earth.

Rev. 14:4 These are they who have not been defiled with women, for they are virgins. These are they who follow the Lamb wherever He may go. These were purchased from among men as firstfruits to God and to the Lamb.

Rev. 14:5 And in their mouth no lie was found; they are without blemish.

C. Marks of maturity include the following—Heb. 6:1:

Heb. 6:1 Therefore leaving the word of the beginning of Christ, let us be brought on to maturity, not laying again a foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith in God,

1. Being filled with the divine life that changes us—Eph. 3:19.

Eph. 3:19 And to know the knowledge-surpassing love of Christ, that you may be filled unto all the fullness of God.

2. Reigning in life—Rom. 5:17.

Rom. 5:17 For if, by the offense of the one, death reigned through the one, much more those who receive the abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness will reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ.

3. Being able to eat solid food—Heb. 5:12-14.

Heb. 5:12 For when because of the time you ought to be teachers, you have need again for someone to teach you what the rudiments of the beginning of the oracles of God are and have become those who have need of milk and not of solid food.

Heb. 5:13 For everyone who partakes of milk is inexperienced in the word of righteousness, for he is an infant;

Heb. 5:14 But solid food is for the full-grown, who because of practice have their faculties exercised for discriminating between both good and evil.

4. Being full-grown in understanding—1 Cor. 14:20.

1 Cor. 14:20 Brothers, do not be children in your understanding, but in malice be babes and in your understanding be full-grown.

5. Being perfect as our heavenly Father is perfect—Matt. 5:48.

Matt. 5:48 You therefore shall be perfect as your heavenly Father is perfect.

6. Seeing the Body, knowing the Body, living in the Body and for the Body, caring for the Body, and honoring the Body—Eph. 4:13-16.

Eph. 4:13 Until we all arrive at the oneness of the faith and of the full knowledge of the Son of God, at a full-grown man, at the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ,

Eph. 4:14 That we may be no longer little children tossed by waves and carried about by every wind of teaching in the sleight of men, in craftiness with a view to a system of error,

Eph. 4:15 But holding to truth in love, we may grow up into Him in all things, who is the Head, Christ,

弗 4:16 本於祂，全身藉着每一豐富供應的節，並藉着每一部分依其度量而有的功用，得以聯絡在一起，並結合在一起，便叫身體漸漸長大，以致在愛裏把自己建造起來。

Eph. 4:16 Out from whom all the Body, being joined together and being knit together through every joint of the rich supply and through the operation in the measure of each one part, causes the growth of the Body unto the building up of itself in love.