



Always Growing

Argyle Spring 2020

Preaching Series:

New Vision and Values



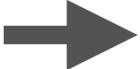


Vision

**Always growing
in Christ's love,
strength and
new life.**

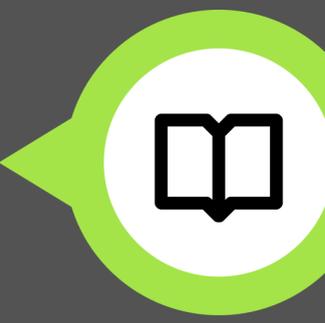


ALWAYS



GROWING





“But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and for ever! Amen.”

2 Peter 3:18



Growth metaphors in the Bible





{Milk and solid food metaphor}

12 In fact, though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you the elementary truths of God's word all over again. You need milk, not solid food! 13 Anyone who lives on milk, being still an infant, is not acquainted with the teaching about righteousness. 14 But solid food is for the mature, who by constant use have trained themselves to distinguish good from evil.

Hebrews 5:12-14





{Building metaphor}

Therefore let us move beyond the elementary teachings about Christ and be taken forward to maturity, not laying again the foundation...

Hebrews 6:1a





{Seed metaphor}

...the seed on good soil stands for those with a noble and good heart, who hear the word, retain it, and by persevering produce a crop.

Luke 8:15





{Craving metaphor ~ instead of craving old vices, Christians are to crave what nourishes spiritual growth}

2 Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation, 3 now that you have tasted that the Lord is good.

1 Peter 2:2-3

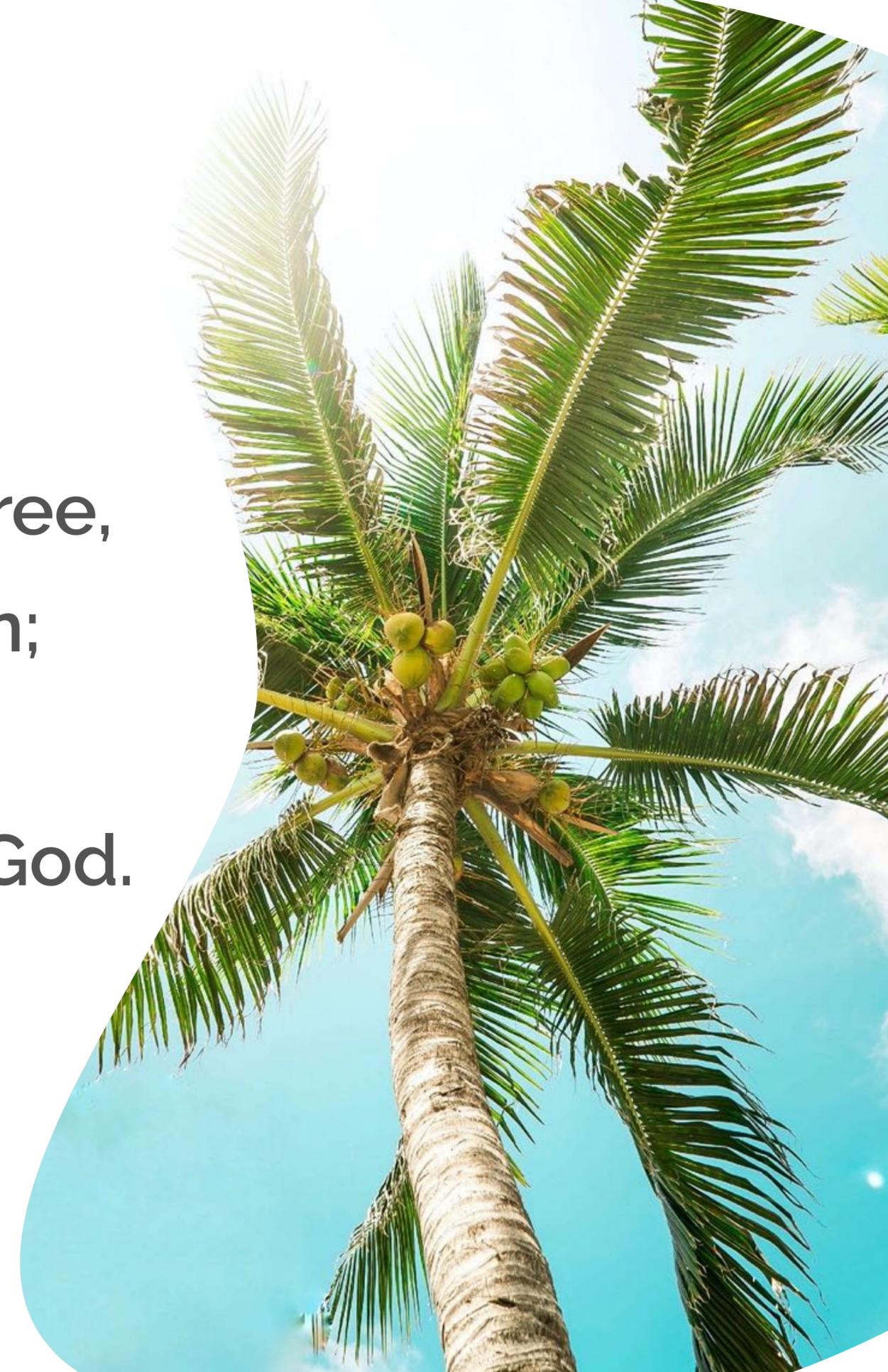


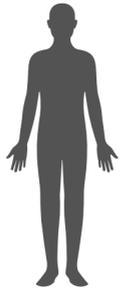


{Tree metaphor}

The righteous will flourish like a palm tree,
they will grow like a cedar of Lebanon;
13 planted in the house of the Lord,
they will flourish in the courts of our God.
14 They will still bear fruit in old age,
they will stay fresh and green.

Psalm 92:12-14

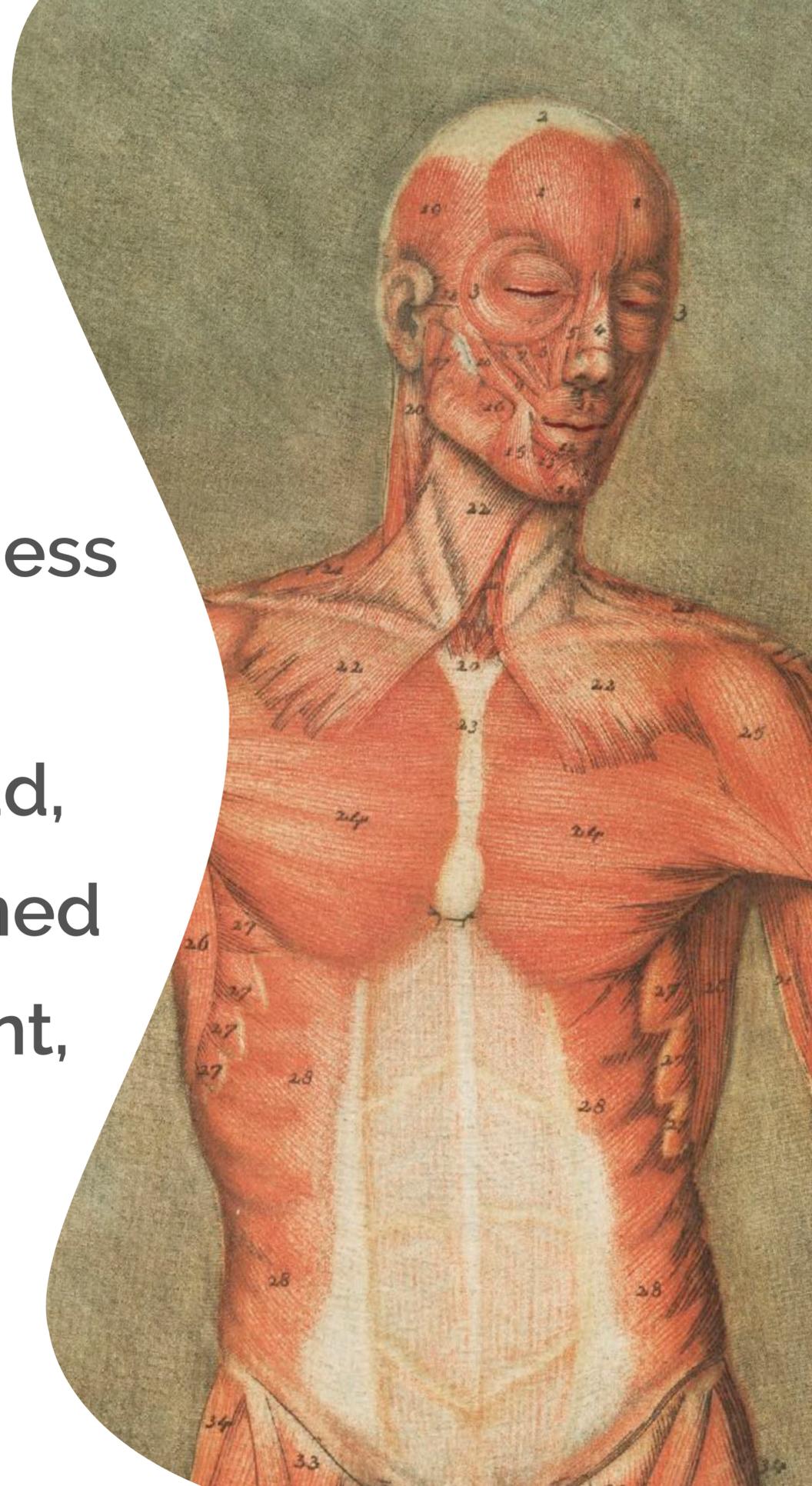




{Human body metaphor}

13 ...attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ. 15 ...we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ. 16 From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.

Ephesians 4:13, 15-16





{Roots metaphor}

Let your roots grow down into him, and let your lives be built on him. Then your faith will grow strong in the truth you were taught, and you will overflow with thankfulness.

Colossians 2:7 (NLT)





Growth is God's desire for us

A passion for

GROWTH





Why growth matters

- ▶ **Maturity** - Not blown about by every wind of teaching
- ▶ **Flourishing** - not just existing
- ▶ **Multiplying** - growing to produce a crop
- ▶ **Increased capacity** - to forgive and love sacrificially
- ▶ **Rooted** - so we don't fear when the heat comes
- ▶ **Fruitful** - growth produces fruit; the fruit of the Spirit
- ▶ **Dependence** - so that to live the life God requires, we're not relying totally on our own intuition, life-experience, skills or wisdom, we're relying on the resources He gives



More reasons why growth matters

- ▶ **If Argyle doesn't grow corporately** - We'll shrink
- ▶ **If Argyle individuals don't grow** - our hearts will shrink
- ▶ **People benefit** - our growth blesses them!
- ▶ **Numerical growth matters** - because every number represents a life
- ▶ **As we grow spiritually** - we discover more of God's goodness
- ▶ **As we grow stronger** - the more spiritual good we can achieve



A growth mentality

**Expecting and desiring
growth**



Gracie



The challenge of growth

