

**PSALM 25: 4-5 "SHOW ME YOUR WAYS, O LORD" GROUP BIBLE STUDIES -
LEARNER'S PACKET - LUTHERAN HOUR MINISTRIES**

LESSON #9 -GOD'S WAY OF GROWING

GOD'S WAY – Man, I think, is a three storied being. The first story is the basement, the ground floor, the physical, where we spend most of our time. There we deal with the "stuff" of life. We are so made that the daily cares of our physical selves require a great deal attention. But above the basement is the second story. That is the intellectual. Some live here more than others. Most find that spending time here gives them strength and happiness. The third story is the highest and best part of ourselves. Sadly, there are many who seldom go to that part of the house. They treat it as if it were a useless room. Yet, this is the tower where we meet with God. Allowing God to bring us into that room where we can grow is the subject of our lesson: "God's Way Of Growth."

THE PRAYER – We begin with prayer: Dear Lord, high in the Alps is a monument raised to honor a guide who perished while trying to save a stranded tourist. Inscribed on that stone are these words: HE DIED CLIMBING. We ask that You will grant us the ability to have the same kind of attitude as Christians, right up to the end of life. In the Name of our Savior. Amen.

THE WORLD'S WAY – Our modern age has developed a philosophy which avoids excellence and wants to know, "What's the least I have to do to qualify?" Some Christians want to know, "What's the least I have to believe (or do) to make it into heaven?" Such an attitude reminds me of this story:

THOUGHT: Let's look at Scripture and see if it agrees with that kind of philosophy:

SCRIPTURE SEARCH 1 –Timothy is Paul's last epistle. Let's see what happened:

PASSAGE	QUESTION	ANSWER
2 Timothy 1: 4 - 7	Where is Paul?	_____
2 Timothy 4: 6	Does Paul think he is going to be released?	_____
2 Timothy 4: 9	What would a person need at such a time?	_____
2 Timothy 1: 15	Who had deserted him?	_____
2 Timothy 4: 11	Who alone had remained faithful?	_____
2 Timothy 1: 15	Who was Phygelus?	_____
	What else do we know about him?	_____
2 Timothy 1: 15	Who was Hermogenes?	_____
	What else do we know about him?	_____
2 Timothy 4: 10	Who was Demas?	_____
Philemon 24	What else do we know about him?	_____

FIRST APPLICATION:

The fellows listed above had the opportunity to hear about the Savior; and to put into action all they had learned and understood. Unfortunately, three of them somewhere, somehow stopped growing in their relationship with the Lord. They left the Apostle when he needed them the most, and deserted their Savior in a time of crisis. They stopped growing and were, unless they repented, lost.

In our age, there are far too many Christians who are more interested in following Jesus from a distance. That is not what the Lord wants from His people. He wants them to grow close to Him. Let's search the Bible and see what it says about the Christian life:

2. SCRIPTURE SEARCH - THE WAY OF GOD IS GOOD AND BEST

PASSAGE	QUESTION	ANSWER
Philippians 1: 6	What should Christians do?	_____
Hebrews 12: 3	What should we not do?	_____
Hebrews 6: 1a	What should we avoid?	_____
	What same stuff?	_____
Hebrews 6: 1b	What should we do?	_____

