

THERE

April 27, 2008

Romans 8: 29

“Don't be so well-adjusted to your culture that you fit into it without even thinking... Unlike the culture around you which is always dragging you down to its level of immaturity. God brings the best out of you, and develops well-formed maturity in you.”

Romans 12:2 (Mess)

HOW DO I GET THERE?

1. THROUGH COMMITMENTS

“Don't be misled; remember that you can't ignore God and get away with it: a man will always reap just the kind of crop he sows!” Galatians 6: 7 (LB)

■ TO JESUS CHRIST

“The law brought nothing to maturity. Another way, through Jesus, is the way that works, bringing us right into the presence of God.” Hebrews 7: 19 (Mess)

■ TO GOD'S WORD

*“All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It straightens us out and teaches us to do what is right. It is God's way of preparing us in every way...”
II Timothy 3: 16-17 (NLT)*

■ TO SPIRITUAL GROWTH

*“Take the time and trouble to keep yourself spiritually fit.”
I Timothy 4: 7b (Ph)*

2. THROUGH CIRCUMSTANCES

“We can rejoice, too, when we run into problems and trials, for we know that they are good for us—they help us learn to be patient. And patience develops strength of character in us and helps us trust God more each time we use it until finally our hope and faith are strong and steady.” Romans 5:3-4 (LB)

“So don't try to get out of anything prematurely. Let it do its work so you become mature and well-developed, not deficient in any way.” James 1: 4 (Mess)

3. THROUGH CHALLENGES

"I have good plans for you..." Jeremiah 29:11 (NCV)

"Now glory be to God, who by His mighty power at work within us is able to do far more than we would ever dare to ask or even dream of—infinately beyond our highest prayers, desires, thoughts, or hopes." Ephesians 3: 20 (LB)

Challenge #1: People

*"Whoever wants to be great must become a servant."
Matthew 20: 26 (Mess)*

Challenge #2: Purpose

If you try to keep your life for yourself, you will lose it. But if you give up your life for My sake and for the sake of the Good News, you will find true life." Mark 8: 36 (NLT)