



**bits from bob...**

### **Growth without Depth**

[posted on Facebook, Aug 13, 2017]

John Stott, last book (*Radical Discipleship*), last words, challenges before the church, three words, the title of this article. My reflections on the theme--

- I see numerical growth—in some places incredible growth—but too often without depth. Superficial discipleship, lack of application in daily life, numerical growth without spiritual growth. Result? – lack of perseverance, new Christians do not “stick.” Add life problems, lack of godliness, lack of integrity. Churches without a solid biblical and theological foundation. Too many Christians do not know the Bible. Few disciple-making disciples.
- Jesus said “make disciples” by baptizing and teaching (Matt. 28:18-20). When baptizing is not followed by teaching, the result is growth without depth. Paul’s goal was to proclaim Christ in order to present everyone mature in Christ (Col. 1:28-29). Gospel proclamation and follow-up teaching.
- J. I. Packer observed that pygmy, petty, puny Christians are the result of a pygmy God—a diminished and incorrect view of God. We also have an inadequate view of Christ Jesus.
- Two correctives--
  - Let us recommit to developing our own spiritual maturity.
  - Let us recommit to making a goal of our ministry the spiritual maturity of others.