

STATEMENT FOR 2018



**“Grow in Grace,
Grow in the knowledge of Jesus Christ”**

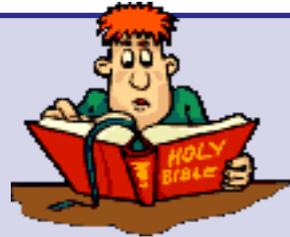


2 Peter 3:18

**Mbabane Alliance Church, a church for everyone
in your family.**



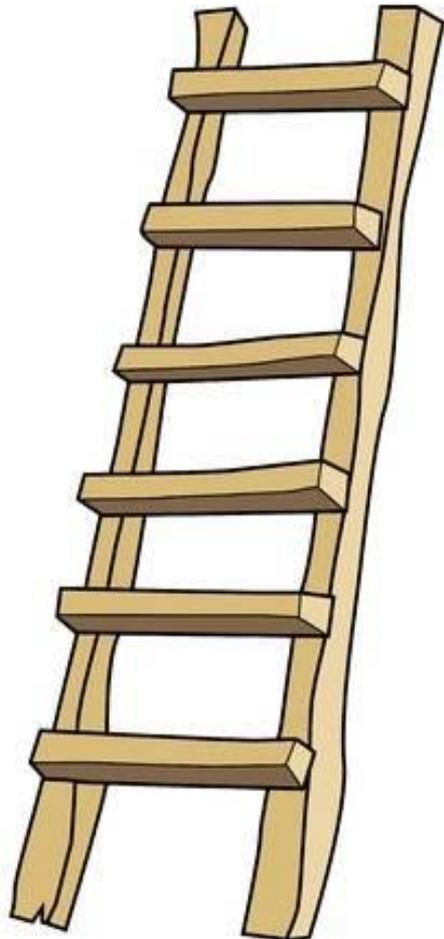
THE LADDER OF VIRTUES



2 Peter 1:5-7

28 October 2018

LADDER OF VIRTUES



1. Faith - *Pistis*

✝ Conviction that what Jesus says is
TRUE.

👍 We can commit ourselves to His
promises.

👍 We can launch ourselves on His
demands.

+ Unquestioning certainty that the way
to;

👍 Happiness.

👍 Peace.

👍 Strength.

**On earth and in heaven is to accept
Him at His word.**

2. Courage - *Arete* (Goodness)

✚ It means excellence.

a) *Arete* is what we might call operative or efficient excellence,

e.g.,

i. Land which is fertile.

ii. Mighty deeds of the gods.

- 👉 **Arete** is that virtue which makes a man a good citizen and friend.
- 👉 **Arete** is that virtue which makes a man an expert in the technique of living well.
- 👉 **Arete** often means courage.
- 👉 Plutarck says that God is a hope of arete.



Faith must issue, not in the retirement of the cloister and the cell but in a life effective in the service of God and man, and it must issue in the courage always to show whose it is and whom it serves.

3. Knowledge - *Gnosis*

✚ *Sophia* is wisdom, in the sense of “knowledge of things both human and divine, and of their causes.” It is knowledge of first causes and of deep and ultimate things.



Gnosis is that practical

knowledge, which is the ability to

apply to particular situations, the

ultimate knowledge which

sophia gives.

 ***Gnosis*** is that knowledge which enables a man to decide rightly and to act honorably and efficiently in the day to day circumstances of life.

4. Self control - *Egkrateia*

- + It means to literally have the ability to take a grip of oneself.
- + Great Greeks spoke, wrote and thought much about this virtue.

✚ Aristotle distinguishes four stages in life:

i. *Sophrosune* – passion has been entirely subjugate to reason.

⇒ This might be called perfect temperance.

ii. *Akolasia* - reason is entirely subjugated to passion.

⇒ This might be called unbridled lust.

iii. ***Akrasia*** – reason fights but passion prevails.

⇒ This might be called incontinence.

iv. *Egkrateia* - reason fights against passion and prevails.

⇒ This is called self-control or self-mastery.

⇒ This is one of the great Christian virtues.

⇒ This is an example of the realism of the Christian ethic.



**This ethic does not
contemplate a situation in
which a man is emasculated
of all passion.**



This ethic envisages a situation in which his passions remain but are under perfect control and so become his servants, not his tyrants.

5. Steadfastness - *Hupomone*
(Steadfastness)

✚ Chrysostom called *hupomone* the
Queen of the virtues.

+ Cicero defines its Latin equivalent as the voluntary and daily suffering of hard and difficulty things, for the sake of honour and usefulness.

✚ Didymus of Alexandria writes on the temper of Job.

✚ *Hypomone* does not simply accept and endure, there is always a forward look in it.

Hebrews 12:2

6. Piety - *Eusebia* (*Godliness*)

- ✓ Correctly worships God and give Him His dues.
- ✓ Correctly serves His fellow-men and gives them their dues.
- ✓ Right relationship both with God and his fellow-men.

✧ **Socrates as described by
Xenophon is the picture of
eusebeia:**

- *He was so pious and devoutly religious that he would take no step apart from the will of heaven; so just and upright soul; so self-controlled, so temperate, that he never at any time chose the sweeter instead of the bitter; so sensible, so wise and so prudent that in distinguishing the better from the worse, He never erred.*

7. Brotherly affection – *Philadelphia*
(Kindness)

 **Love of the brethren.**

 **There is a kind of religious devotion.**

 **Separates a man from his fellow-men.**

 **Regards claims of fellow-men as intrusion.**



**Sees, demands human
relationship as nuisance, e.g.,
Epidetus, the great Stoic
philosopher.**

8. Love

+ A Christian must have a love which is as wide as that love of God:

- 1.** He causes his sun to rise on the just and on the unjust.
- 2.** He sends rain on the evil and on the good.
- 3.** The Christian must show to all men the love which God Has shown to him.