

STATEMENT FOR 2018



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

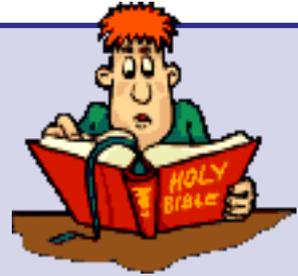


2 Peter 3:18

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



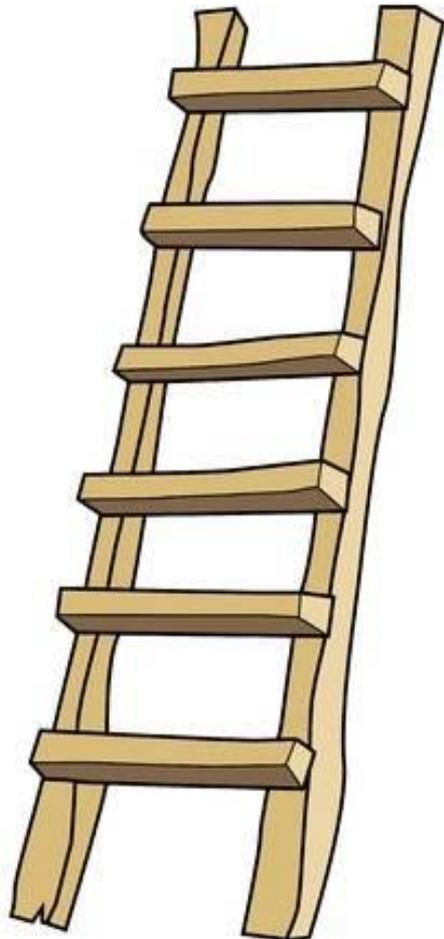
THE LADDER OF VIRTUES



2 Peter 1:5-7

4 November 2018

LADDER OF VIRTUES





If you **possess** these **qualities** in **increasing** measure.



1. Possess

- ★ Hold as property – Own, Quality, Characteristic.
- ★ Have as a faculty – Idea, theory and philosophy.

- ★ **Have power over – Ability, Capacity, Competence.**
- ★ **Maintain in a specific state – Keep, Consist and Consistency.**

2. Quality

- ★ **The degree of excellence of a thing/value.**

3. Increasing

- ★ **Make or become greater in size or amount.**

➔ They will **keep you** from being **ineffective** and **unproductive** in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

1. Keep you from being:

★ Prevent.

★ Stop.

2. Ineffective;



Not producing any effect or the desired effect.



Inefficient.



Not achieving results.



Lacking artistic effect.

3. Unproductive;

★ Not productive.

★ Produce.

- Bring forward for consideration.**
- Bear or yield.**
- Bring into existence.**

 But if anyone does not have these qualities, s/he is:

- 1. Blind**
- 2. Short sighted**
- 3. Forgotten**

a) Blind. 2 Peter 2:1-4

- **An inability to see the present will lead to a failure to understand God's verdict on the corrupt world and the way of salvation.**

b) Shortsighted.



Romans 1:18-32



Romans 1:2-16, 2:1-16



An inability to see into the future will leave them morally and religiously independent of God the savior.

c) Forgotten. Romans 3:23-31

- **An inability to see the past will mean failure to perceive how they can be cleansed from their past sins.**

✓ Be more eager to make your **calling** and **election** sure.

1. Calling.

2. Election.



How to make your calling and election sure?

1. Live a life worthy. **Eph. 4:1.**
2. Be imitators of God. **Eph. 5:1a.**
3. Live a life of love. **Eph. 5:2a.**

4. Live as children of light.

Eph. 5:8b -11.

5. Live as wise. Eph. 5:15-21.

6. Act wise towards outsiders.

Colossians 4:5-6.

7. Live to please God. 1 Thess. 4:1.

✓ If you do those things, you will never fall.

1. “We will never sin” vs. “never fall.”
2. “We will never suffer a reverse”

- 3.** “God will never change His mind”
about going to heaven.
- 4.** “Permanently devoted to
following Jesus.”

✓ You will receive a rich welcome
into the eternal Kingdom.



Matthew 25:21

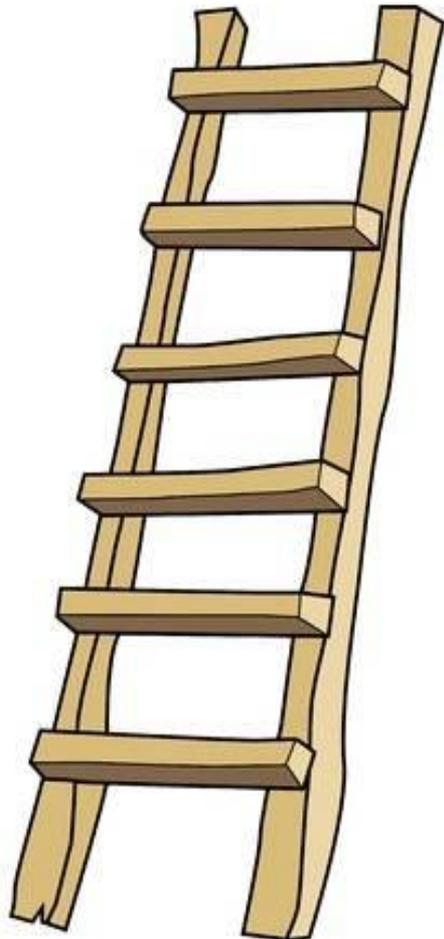


Acts 7:55-56



2 Timothy 4:7-8, 18

LADDER OF VIRTUES



✓ He considers the Christian life as a good fight, the only fight worth fighting.

✓ Paul sees the Christian life as a fight, an intense struggle that requires persevering in loyalty to Christ and contending with adversaries of the Gospel.

**✓ All of us are called to defend
the Gospel in whatever
occupation God has placed us.**

1. He fought against Satan.

Ephesians 6:10-12



Not against flesh.



Not against blood.



Against rulers.



Against authorities.



Against powers.



Against spiritual forces.

1 John 2:15-17

2. He fought against Jewish and pagan vices. **Romans 1:21-32**

 Jewish vices

 Pharisees

a) Behaved as though their own religious rules were just as

b) Their piety was often hypocritical and their efforts often forced others to try to live up to standards they themselves could not live up to

- c) Believed that salvation came from perfect obedience to the law and was not based on forgiveness of sins.**

d) Became so obsessed with obeying their legal interpretations in every detail that they completely ignored God's message of mercy and grace

e) Were more concerned with appearing to be good than obeying God.

Sadducees

- i.** Relied on logic while placing little importance on faith.
- ii.** Did not believe all the old testament was God's word.
- iii.** Did not believe in a bodily

- iv.** Did not believe in angels or demons.
- v.** Were often willing to compromise their values with the Romans and others in order to maintain their status

3. He fought against Judaism.

Galatians 5:1-6

⇒ The religion and culture of the Jewish people.



In its modern expression

Judaism is also shaped by the

following traditional beliefs:

I. Man is pivotal in the universe. He sees himself as partner with God in the unending process of creation. In rabbinic thought, *“God needs man as much as man needs God”*

II. Man is a responsible moral agent fully accountable for his acts. He is free to shape his own destiny.

III. Human progress is possible as a man realizes the great potential within him. The nature of man is basically good, or neutral, free from the encumbrance of original sin. Thus man may be

IV. “This - worldliness” is a distinguishing mark of Judaism. The Hebrew Scriptures focus more on earth and man than heaven and God. Hence, lengthy speculation about the afterlife and otherworldly realities has never occupied a major position

V. All of life must be regarded as sacred. Man is to seek to imitate God in sanctifying his every action. Time must be imbued with seeds of eternity.

VI. Man is to pursue peace, justice and righteousness. Salvation is dependant upon the betterment of society through good deed.

Historically, Jews have seen the Messiah as God's anointed human representative (not a God - man)

**Today, however, Reform
Judaism teaches that the
Messianic Age will appear when
humankind collectively, by its
acts, reaches a level of true
enlightenment, peace and**

**4. He fought against
antinomianism and
immorality in the church.**

1 Corinthians 6:9-11.

5. He fought against false teachers. **Acts 20:28-31.**

6. He fought against the distortion of the gospel.
Galatians 1:6-12.

7. He fought against worldliness.

Romans 12:2

8. He fought against sin.

1 Corinthians 9:24-27.