# PROGRESSIST

Dedicated to Progressive Mortals Everywhere
From Mark Kurtz, Goshen, Indiana USA

”This magnificent and universal injunction to strive for the attainment of the perfection of divinity is the first duty, and should be the highest ambition, of all the struggling creature creation of the God of perfection. This possibility of the attainment of divine perfection is the final and certain destiny of all man's eternal spiritual *progress*.” *The Urantia Book*, (22:1)

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## Imagine Progress; or None of It

Urantia mortals are expected to progress in their personal relations with the Paradise Father, our planetary fellows, and the Cosmos. This is a prime reason many Sons bestow themselves on mortals of time and space. Several orders of local universe Sons and then Paradise Sons come in numbers on many different occasions to progressively teach mortals new and higher concepts of God and the Cosmos. Progress, with an aim to exalted planetary attainment, is a prime reason Jesus taught his followers new and advanced mind and spirit mages of his Father. He gave us a destiny glimpse to enhance hope and to inspire new willingness to find and accept the Father in our personal living. He lived a magnanimous example of human spiritual growth from infancy to full adult attainment.

Imagine if you will life on mortal spheres without a progressive scheme to transform individuals and whole planets from animalistic nature to a high divine defined ideal! Could the reader benefit from reflective thought about what this means if there is little or no personal progress? What could be the personal benefits of his efforts to grow in spirit? Imagine the struggles of Jews and Gentiles as they listened to Jesus.

Consider the impact on our world had Jesus not taught us God is a person who cares for and provides for our well being. Consider the portions of the world that have been influenced by this teaching as compared to those peoples who have not been guided by this concept. Consider what would be our world situation if all people would accept this great progressive new relationship with God!

There are hundreds of examples from the Revelators of progress promotion in the Urantia Teachings. We know from reading *The Urantia Book* of the evolutionary and progressive plan to transform the entire Grand Universe into a grand definition of perfection. The grand invitation to men and angels is to be perfect, even as the Father in heaven is perfect. This invitation has been issued to all the Grand Universe and its many beings.

We cannot be as perfect as the Father is on Paradise, but mortals can achieve perfection of choice as mortal humans can possibly achieve on our nativity sphere. And angels have their progressive desires also. Progress is planned and expected of all men and angels throughout Creation. We are part of a Plan that is so large that many high Sons do not perceive of it all. We are blessed with an invitation to participate and enjoy the activities of its outworking. The Father invites us to accept the Plan and to seek personal progressive learning to effect our growth and increasing understanding of life as we keep a spirit eye on Paradise!

Worthy of note is our role as human mortals---to help each other make it to Paradise!

Imagine the many ways we could participate in the Michael and Father Plan for Urantian Progress! Consider our planetary history and the long, long pathway of social and government or nation development. What would life be like where there is no representative government? We know of the value of good representation and we now know more of what life could be like if we progress in all aspects of mortal life as we learn from UB teachings, including the importance of all nations accepting a representative style government.

Imagine your part in the Plan for Urantia and for our Nebadon, our Local Universe. Imagine new inspiration for service if you complete your reading of the book and if you find a group to help you study its teachings. Imagine new levels of love understanding and experience if you progress in your feeling of divine-like, loving values. Imagine feeling new levels of assurance for continuing life if you progress in your understanding of the Paradise destiny. Imagine experiencing divine designed value of worth, as one unique in all creation! Imagine that! Each person is a unique new thought in the mind of the Father! Imagine that!! We are all invited to progress and find God. All that is required is to accept! For most of us, thinking about personal progress is probably a new mind exercise. It doesn’t require hard work. Have some fun with it!

## Disease and Despair; Progress Where Art Thou?

Perhaps one of the most troubling aspects of Urantian mortal existence is continuing disease affliction. Millions, billions suffered and died not knowing a better life free of disease and untold suffering, while today we continue in a difficult struggle to find cures. We are told in the UB we are not a

normal world. Are we able to imagine what a normal planet, with significantly less or no disease, could be?

All manner of doctrine exist positing mortal thoughts to explain our physical dilemma of suffering. The so called fall of man was put out there to explain our situation and our need for God's love. We ask, 'Where is God when we suffer'?

Indeed, we need progress to solve physical body ills. The Revelators tell us we are destined to eliminate disease, but we will have to do this on our own. We should not take this to mean God does not care about our situation, but we should trust His Thought Adjusters and angels abroad on Urantia to help us as we seek answers for cures through research.

A review of medical history suggests we are making progress. We cannot say our progress is equal among Urantians. Developed nations have found cures and provided medical services and drugs to fight disease. What of less developed nations? Are they to suffer indefinitely? No, there are extensive aid efforts as mankind has progressed in his understanding of worth for all persons. Some care more than others.

Revelators tell us of the divine plan for planetary attainment called Settled in Light and Life. They tell us of a future Urantia of great spiritual, physical, national, planetary and social attainment of a quality we are not able to fully imagine.

Of Adam and Eve we read, ***Adam and Eve did fall from their high estate of material sonship down to the lowly status of mortal man. But that was not the fall of man. The human race has been uplifted despite the immediate consequences of the Adamic default. Although the divine plan of giving the violet race to the Urantia peoples miscarried, the mortal races have profited enormously from the limited contribution which Adam and his descendants made to the Urantia races.*** (845:8)

We profited enormously! Imagine our state of affairs had there been no contribution of any amount from Adam and Eve. This failure of enormous extent is the prime reason we suffer so much today, in my humble opinion. Never fear, however. We are destined to benefit from research and development.

We could be angry with Adam, Eve, Serapatatia, Cano, Laotta, Caligastia, and Daligastia. What would that accomplish? We suffer because of their acts, but we are to benefit wonderfully in future years as stalwart and strong believers in God's greater plans.

We fare quite well with our desires to seek and find progressive relation with God's overview and glorious plans. We could have had a better planet had not there been two disastrous defaults. We could have less medical expenses and lower insurance premiums today had the Adam and Eve plan manifested fully according to the original intent.

In the meanwhile, for many years to come, we will slowly progress to a high state of human mortal physical living. Average life span will increase as less disease raids our bodies. It remains to be seen whether progress will be among the rich or will human body disease continue among the poor. Seek the Urantia teachings and your favorite religious resources for guidance on this far reaching situation.

The story of Adam and Eve, (Papers 73-76, pages 821-854) their purposes for coming here, and their struggle for uplifting Urantia, plus their dreadful default, is one of great interest and is an enlightening benefit to readers. We now better understand our plight and we see our way out of many troubles. This story augments our understanding and inspires hope for the future.

Paper 52, Planetary Mortal Epochs, Section 3, Post-Adamic Man, describes the epochal importance of the Adam and Eve ministry and purposes. Here we read about what perhaps could have been the desired affect had not Urantia suffered the effects of rebellious Sons (before Adam and Eve). Mortal material evolution is normally up stepped along with social and spiritual advances. We were denied these, but we are destined to reap unimaginable benefits. The authors introduce a new term to us: agondonter, one who perseveres in faith through adversarial rebellion, as on Urantia.

Note this quote for closing, ***It is because of this God fragment that indwells you that you can hope, as you progress in harmonizing with the Adjuster's spiritual leadings, more fully to discern the presence and transforming power of those other spiritual influences that surround you and impinge upon you but do not function as an integral part of you***". (64:7)

We are not alone in our suffering! Keep a strong faith; we shall overcome! All revelation is designed to upgrade mortals, to offer hope, and to increase man's understanding of purpose and destiny. We are supremely valued!

THOUGHT TEASERS

"Progress is made possible by inherent motion, advancement grows out of the divine capacity for action, and achievement is the child of imaginative adventure." (316:5)

"Progress demands development of individuality; mediocrity seeks perpetuation in standardization." (557:13)

## What Kind of God Is God?

We could also ask what progress has mankind experienced for imagining God and believing in a Supreme Being. Early man was terrified, timid and frustrated as he struggled to avoid anger he saw in his environment. There was no personal friend, in his thinking, who would guide and protect him from wild

beasts, ravaging storms, “angry” mountains, enormous floods, and that ever menacing shove of ice from the north. Many supposed forms of contact with the outside world were provided in many religions and taboos to explain the unknown.

There was no time to think or reflect on his state of being that he believed was favor or punishment from somebody or thing outside of himself. Man was busy hunting for food and defending against beasts.

*The Urantia Book* narrates much of man’s long history of struggle with the elements and of his suffering attempts to find protection. The Fatherhood of God is a concept of long evolution and Jesus’ tender teaching that God is a Father to each individual was a welcome new and attractive concept to the Apostles.

***While sojourning at Amathus, Jesus spent much time with the apostles instructing them in the new concept of God; again and again did he impress upon them that God is a Father, not a great and supreme bookkeeper who is chiefly engaged in making damaging entries against his erring children on earth, recordings of sin and evil to be used against them when he subsequently sits in judgment upon them as the just Judge of all creation. The Jews had long conceived of God as a king over all, even as a Father of the nation, <u>but never before had large numbers of mortal men</u> held the idea of God as a loving Father of the individual.*** (1590:4)

Mankind has not yet fully discovered the high value of accepting sonship with this Great Personality. The reader’s close examination of the various world religions could be a good comparative basis for examining the good of the Father concept of God in Jesus’ teaching found in this latest Urantia Revelation.

Paper 142, Section 3, The Concept of God, is the narrative of Jesus’ first teaching the Father concept to the twelve Apostles. They were shocked to hear the story of the changing concepts of God through Jewish history. They saw the progressive image of God as a person interested in their *personal* well being!

The six major steps were Yahweh, the god of the early clans; The Most High, Melchizedek's new concept of an expanded Deity; El Shaddai, a god of heaven borrowed during Egyptian captivity; Elohim, a multiple God of creators; the Supreme Yahweh, an expanded Universal Creator; and finally Jesus’ new God as a *personal* Father to each *individua*l.

Through a great span of time and evolving concepts the Jews were subject to law of their best understanding---a negative set of rules to prohibit certain behavior. On through time came new rules of more positive nature.

And then we became aware of a God of love in whom we are told of love for Him and our fellows here on Urantia is cherished and adored on high. Indeed, progress is intended for all the Cosmos. We are invited to discover and learn divine definitions of all aspects of human life, including relations with fellow mortals.

Indeed, indeed, this new book brings new understanding of many divine *definitions* for mortal life---relating to our fellows and relating to God!

Personal progress assessment is an attractive mind activity when we see the struggles of pre-modern man and then view Jesus’ living model. Take note of his growth from childhood to adulthood.

What kind of God is God? Test your personal growth and progress from your understanding of teachings in *The Urantia Book*. This writing is only a slight teaser to jiggle your curiosity a bit about possibilities. Is there room for more good in your life if progress assessment is one consideration for the major decisions of daily living?

Bridging into a greater venue, our planet, we surely would see much progress is needed to achieve world peace. Individual, personal, sincere progress is the foundation for improving society. It precedes and impinges on family, next the community, next a nation and finally the planetary Urantia community of fellow mortals. In reflection we all could say, ‘It starts with me’. We all should desire to leave something good on earth before we leave, to foster progress.

## Hungry? Famished? Starving? Dying? Or, ‘Hey! Leave Me Alone!’

No one is expected to eat food 24 hours per day. This seems like a ridiculous statement, which it is of course. If we play with words a bit and think analogously, we could use material food as way of considering spiritual values nourishment. We are told mortals need nourishment from above and that man cannot live by bread alone. Spiritual “food” is not needed 24 hours each day; no balanced person could live a normal life if bordering on fanatical religious lifestyles. Too much work at it puts a person at risk.

Personal spiritual growth means we must put forth effort to take in spiritual food. And growth depends on making time with the Father. We are told to make an appointment every day with God! This is needed nourishment that should be included with reading and discussion with others.

We know that without food we die. What of spiritual life? Without growth, and nourishment, we die if we reject the Father and rebel against his plan. That’s a strong statement! The authors tell us we are judged whether we are worthy of continuing life. And they say the Judges will not extinguish a soul if there remains even the slightest spark of interest. There is risk for persons who put off God.

*The Urantia Book* authors tell us we must yield to the spiritual leadings within and accept God. They also tell us of unlimited mercy credits for those who do not finally reject God. The authors tell us of a loving Father who values each person regardless of our mistakes and misjudgments. We are also reminded that having once accepted sonship, we must also progress in our desire of God and to show increasing

love for our fellow Urantians. We are to progress in our understandings and to increasingly show forth fruits of the spirit.

What if a person seemingly is not hungry for growth? What if a person is too busy or occupied with the material aspects of life to be interested in the eternal values found in spiritual living? What if a person privately rejects leadings and urges from the Spirit within? What if a person is so satisfied with his life that no hunger is found within his soul for God? Lacking spiritual hunger is not automatic death, however. But, final rejection of God results in soul death, which is the worst possible. This results when a person becomes cosmically insane, so deeply immersed in iniquity that recovery is impossible.

The authors clarify there are at least three deaths. Soul death is the result of failure to resurrect (in heaven) and is the result of final rejection of God. Intellectual death results when the mind no longer can function adequately due to sickness, and maybe other factors. Physical death is more commonly known as the material body life cessation. Of these, soul death means no possibility of continuing life.

This topic is not scary to one who desires to know God and in faith accepts a heaven concept. The details vary within religions. And, we are told no human has been granted the right to judge another's soul.

We are taught soul progress is a reality as we increasingly show fruits of the spirit, increasingly desire to be like God, and increasingly show these fruits in human relationships.

Readers will likely gain great new insights from *The Urantia Book* as new experiences are sure to teach us, with conviction we are supremely loved and valued. Narration of a small portion of God's very extensive plans for the Universe of Universes and for each person is so intriguing, inspiring, reassuring, and uplifting that great pleasure is likely for readers.

The authors give us hints and suggestions about real progress, as defined by divinity, new concepts worthy of personal consideration. In the last analysis, who would want to say to God, 'Hey, I'm too busy; leave me alone'? Sonship with the Father is of paramount importance!

The authors tell us to turn inward with prayer and meditation, to become spirit contactors and there we will find God. The Father is Spirit and the greatest force in all His creation is love. This great force is destined to change the world. A progressist is one who progresses or is progressive. Let's share our progress with one another! Doing so, reveals progress within oneself.

## Write of Your Insights

New and veteran readers are invited to share their insights about progress, progressiveness, and many ancillary related concepts. The Progressist publisher has no desire to monopolize discussion or to "blog" people into boredom. It is recognized that the Spirit within mortals is capable of teaching anyone who will listen. Is your Spirit within active?

What aspects of life do you notice progress or where is progress sorely needed? Do you better understand what is needed after reading the Revelation? What interests you that you could share? No topic common to humanity is off limits,

Readers are invited to submit articles to Progressist as they may feel led. Please see the masthead for submission details.

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## In Closing……

***Can you not advance in your concept of God's dealing with man to that level where you recognize that the watchword of the universe is progress? Through long ages the human race has struggled to reach its present position. Throughout all these millenniums Providence has been working out the plan of progressive evolution. The two thoughts are not opposed in practice, only in man's mistaken concepts. Divine providence is never arrayed in opposition to true human progress, either temporal or spiritual. Providence is always consistent with the unchanging and perfect nature of the supreme Lawmaker***. (54:5

***Do not become discouraged by the discovery that you are human. Human nature may tend toward evil, but it is not inherently sinful. Be not downcast by your failure wholly to forget some of your regrettable experiences. The mistakes which you fail to forget in time will be forgotten in eternity. Lighten your burdens of soul by speedily acquiring a long-distance view of your destiny, a universe expansion of your career.*** (1739:3)

***It is forever true, `the just shall live by faith.' Entrance into the Father's kingdom is wholly free, but progress--growth in grace--is essential to continuance therein.*** (1682.4)

***You may enter the kingdom as a child, but the Father requires that you grow up, by grace, to the full stature of spiritual adulthood.*** (2054:3)