

Valley Bible Church – Sermon Transcript

Loving God's Word 1 Peter 2:1-3 Part Two

The proper response to our great salvation in respect to ourselves is to “long for the pure milk of the word.” This is not an option. It is a command.

We spent a great deal of time last week laying the foundation for this week's message and we do not have time to go back and review all of what was said. But let us simply say that though this is what the Lord has commanded it is not always what we are experiencing.

It is very important therefore that we pay close attention to the passage that is before us. The reason for this is simple, if you would respond to the truths contained in this passage you will in fact find yourself being obedient to this command.

What can we do in order to produce a longing or craving for God's Word?

REMEMBER YOUR LIFE SOURCE

Where do we see this in this verse? Let us look at **V. 1** and the very first word of that verse “**therefore.**” This word demands that we look back at what preceded this command. And in looking back we will find the basis for it. Let us therefore look again at the section of scripture we have just finished studying. Let us begin reading at **V. 22** “**Since you have in obedience to the truth purified your souls for a sincere love of the brethren, fervently love one another from the heart (23 for you have been born again not of seed which is perishable but imperishable, that is, through the living and abiding Word of God. (24) For, ‘All flesh is like grass, and all its glory like the flower of grass. The grass withers, and the flower falls off, (25) But the word of the Lord abides forever.’ And this is the word which was preached to you.**” The truth, the living and abiding Word of God, is our birth mother. We passed from death to life through the Word as it has been revealed to us. This is POWER. I was once lost but now found. I was once blind but now I see.

Since God's creative grace came through the Bible, since the Word is our life source, since the word is the source of our new existence, **DESIRE IT!!!** I am going to continue to go back to what works and the Scriptures work.

Don't tell me that it doesn't work!!! How do I know this? Because it was through the power of the word that I was set free from the kingdom of darkness and delivered into the kingdom of light. If I understand the power of the Word in respect to what it has done will I now lose faith in it? God forbid!!!

Valley Bible Church – Sermon Transcript

God has given us a promise and we need to listen to it. **Isaiah 55:10-11** “**For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return there without watering the earth, and making it bear and sprout, and furnishing seed to the sower and bread to the eater; So shall My word be which goes forth from My mouth; it shall not return to Me empty, without accomplishing what I desire, and without succeeding in the matter for which I sent it.**”

What else do we need to give attention to if we are going to find a strong desire for God’s Word? Not only are we to remember that it is our life source. But we also need to turn from sin.

ELIMINATE YOUR SIN

Let us look again at **V. 1** “**Therefore, putting aside all malice and all guile and hypocrisy and envy and all slander.....**” We are being told to put aside sin. “To put aside” in this verse is a participle but it takes on the (imperative) sense of the main verb. This same word is used in **Col. 3:8-10** to convey the very same thought. “**But now you also, put them all aside: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and abusive speech from your mouth. (9) Do not lie to one another, since you laid aside the old self with its evil practices, and have put on the new self who is being renewed to a true knowledge according to the image of the One who created him.**”

It was the practice of the early church in some locations to take the clothes they arrived in and throw them away, and after their baptism new clothes would be given them to symbolize what had taken place at their salvation.

We must continue to do what we did when we first began. We cannot begin our walk with the Lord by being willing to put aside our sin and in midstream want to again walk in it. If we in fact do this our appetite for the Word will be quenched. This is the clear implication of what this passage is teaching.

Written in the cover of my wife’s first Bible, which was given to her by her father, it said, “This book will keep you from sin and sin will keep you from this book.” This is exactly what we are learning from the passage that is before us. Let us look at some of the things we are told to put aside in **V. 1**.

“**Malice**” - The Greek word is KAKIA. It is an all inclusive word. A very broad word which kind of sums up all of that which is evil. All the other words that follow this word really are specific expressions of that which this first word encompasses. We could say put aside all malice or evil such as:

“**Guile**” - The word in the Greek originally meant fishhook. And what is a hook suppose to do? It is suppose to deceive the fish. It is the attitude that desires to get the better of another by cunning and deception. We are to put this off.

“**Hypocrisies**” - Depicts the various forms of pretense (counterfeit acts) to which deceit resorts in its endeavor to throw the intended victim off guard. This word was originally used to describe and actor in a Greek or Roman play who would wear a mask so that you would not see himself for who he truly was.

Valley Bible Church – Sermon Transcript

“**Envy**” - Envy is the feeling of displeasure produced by witnessing or hearing of the advantage or prosperity of others.

“**All slander**” - The word is “KATALALIAS” which occurs in the N.T. only here and in **2 Cor. 12:20**. It denotes speech that “runs down” or disparages another. It is a vice that deliberately assaults the character of another and usually takes place behind the victim’s back. Slander is often times the fruit of envy.

Before we can ever have an appetite for God’s Word there must be repentance a putting aside of all malice or evil. Which might include such things as guile (deception), hypocrisy, envy and slander.

This is without a doubt the single most damaging factor in a killing appetite. Believers when they first begin are fully yielded and somehow Satan gets a hold of them and leads them to believe that they now can live the Christian life with less than a 100 % commitment this is a LIE.

If we are going to long for the Word, strongly desire it, crave it we need to REMEMBER OUR LIFE SOURCE, WE NEED TO PUT AWAY OUR SIN OR IN OTHER WORDS REPENT.

WE NEED TO ADMIT OUR NEED

Let us look at **V. 2 “Like newborn babes”** The word for “**babe**” is the word BREPHOS which is speaking of a brand new baby. And what do brand new babies want when they are awake. They want to eat. They want milk. After they are satisfied they go back to sleep.

Feeding newborn babies junk food will not bring them to maturity. There are so many professing believers who are craving the junk food of this world and do not understand why their spiritual lives are so messed up. They need to stop feeding on what the world offers and recognize their need to feed on the unadulterated and uncontaminated Word of God.

Jesus said in **Matthew 4:4 “Man shall not live on bread alone but on every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God.”**

How should we read the scriptures? With the longing of a newborn baby.

If we are going to do this, it is helpful for us if we would remember our LIFE SOURCE, PUT AWAY OUR SIN, AND ACKNOWLEDGE OUR NEED. What else?

PURSUE OUR GROWTH

We need to want to grow. Again let us look at **V. 2 “Like newborn babes, long for the pure milk of the word, that by it you may grow in respect to salvation.”**

There is a common expression that says that if you set no goals you will hit it every time. And that is so often true with Christians. They have no spiritual ambition. But this is not the way it should be.

Valley Bible Church – Sermon Transcript

Peter concludes his second epistle with these words **“Grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory, both now and to the day of Eternity. Amen.”** A growth goal should not be optional for us.

I love the words of the Apostle Paul in **Phil. 3:7-14** The fourteenth verse is particularly powerful **“I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.”**

Spiritual growth rises out of discontent..... It is a serious problem when we are content. One of the biggest lies Satan uses is that our lives are fine just like they are.

If your appetite for the Word of God has waned hopefully you would make sure you have done the following: 1) Remembered your life source 2) Put away your sin or have repented 3) Acknowledge your need 4) Be growth minded and finally....

SURVEY YOUR BLESSINGS

Let us look at **V. 3 “If you have tasted the goodness of the Lord.”** The more of God’s goodness we enjoy the greater will be your craving. Let us survey the goodness of the Lord in our lives. As we do this we will only be stimulated to experience more.

In **Lamentations 3:22-23 “The Lord’s lovingkindnesses indeed never cease, for His compassions never fail. (23) They are new every morning: Great is thy Faithfulness.”**..... It is this sense of blessedness in respect to the Lord and His Word which **1 Peter 2:3** basically uses as an explanation of Why we should continue to long for and crave the Word of God?

CONCLUSION

There is a disease that we are all familiar with and that is anorexia nervosa. A disease that usually impacts women which results in them starving themselves to death. These are some of the symptoms:

1) Long periods without eating followed by binges followed by vomiting and enemas. Very much like some believers who are failing to come to God’s Word.

2) Excessive exercise. Again very much like many Christians who are avoiding the Word of God. The only difference is the form of the activity that is being pursued.

3) Depression and an inability to effectively deal with problems. Again very much like many Christians who are avoiding the Word of God.

4) Social isolation is another symptom and again this is very much again what happens to many professing believers who are avoiding God’s Word for fear of being exposed.

Valley Bible Church – Sermon Transcript

There are Christians who are spiritually starving to death and the cure is oh so very simple.....
LONG FOR THE PURE MILK OF THE WORD.

Easier said than done. But again let me remind you of certain helpful insights shared in this passage this will turn this around.

- 1) Remember your life source
- 2) Put away your sin
- 3) Acknowledge your need
- 4) Establish a growth goal
- 5) Survey your blessings