

New Year Necessities – Back to Basics: Word 1 Peter 2:1-3

INTRODUCTION

This morning we begin a series under the heading of New Year Necessities – **Back to Basics**. Please turn in your Bible to **1 Peter 2:1-3**. As we begin the new year, we must have **A Commitment to God’s Word**...Why? According to this passage and the greater context of **1 Peter 1:22-2:3**, the importance of God’s word is seen in that **(1)** It’s the seed that brings life; **(2)** It’s the milk that gives growth. Only one imperative is found in these verses: *“long for (crave) the pure spiritual milk”* (verse 2). The *“put away (rid yourselves NIV)”* [**putting aside, laying aside**] (a participle) of the evils enumerated in **verse 1** is a subordinate duty which prepares one for carrying out the principal command.

Listen. If we want to grow, we must get the Word of God in us. And we must crave it. Just like a newborn craves milk, we must long for the Word of the Lord. Please listen to the words found in **Job 23:12**: *“I have treasured the words of his mouth more than my daily bread.”* The word *“long (crave)”* is a command from a root word which means, *“to burn”* and is expressed in eager activity, an intense longing. We must be intentional because it won’t happen automatically. **Too many Christians are spiritually malnourished. We must know the Word of the Lord if we want to grow in the Lord of the Word.** And like newborns, we’re to go after God’s Word fervently and frequently. **God’s good word grows good works in a bad world.**

Please note: *It is impossible to grow in your relationship with God without growing in your relationship with God’s Word.* Ok, that’s what we’re supposed to do. But for many of us that’s a struggle. We know the *“what”*, but we struggle with the *“how.”* And worse yet, we struggle with the *“why”*. Before you just check out and start feeling guilty because you don’t really crave God’s Word, **I want to spend the rest of our time together on the ‘how’ question.**

This passage provides **3 reasons** (motivations) for craving or longing for God’s word.

Let’s begin...

I. _____ your salvation (2:1a)

Read v. 2:1. **1 Peter 2:1** starts with the word *“So (ESV) ‘Therefore’ in other translations.”* That means we need to go back a few more verses to see what Peter said in **1 Peter 1:23-25: (read verses)**. God uses His Word to save us. We need to remember that. Three times in these verses we read of the primacy of the Word. Please note that in **1:22** Peter spoke of salvation as that initiated by means of the Word. Now in **2:2**, salvation is not the starting point (as in **1:22**) but the goal toward which obedience to the Word moves us. Salvation in this portion of Scripture (as elsewhere **Eph 1:3-14**), has a past, present, and future dimension. Don’t miss that salvation has a past tense (justification); present tense (sanctification) & future tense (glorification). * We are born again through the living and enduring word of God. * The word of the Lord stands forever. * The word was preached to us. **The Word of God is a SEED THAT BRINGS LIFE.**

Secondly,

II. _____ sin from your life (2:1b)

Peter then lists **five vices** that include both *attitudes and actions* that are often demonstrated in the community of Christ-followers.

Here’s the list:

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

Do you want to long (crave for) God's Word? First, remember your salvation. Second, remove sin in your life. Thirdly,

III. _____ on the goodness of God (2:3)

CONCLUSION

What can we take with us this morning? In **Psalm 119:97** we find the words: *"Oh, how I love your law! I meditate in it all day long."* Do not make the mistake of reading the word "love" as some sort of emotional, sentimental attraction. **To love God's Word means to commit yourself to making it the foundation of your life.** This sort of love cannot happen by accident. It is a combination of desire plus diligence. You don't wake up one day loving the Bible. This is a cultivated habit that is developed over time. Let me make this very personal; please consider these four questions:

- **Do I love the Word of God?**
- **Do I love to hear it preached?**
- **Do I love the Word when it rebukes me and convicts me?**
- **Do I love to share it with others?**

If you want this sort of love for God's Word, here are **3 action steps** you must take on a regular basis:

1. _____ it!
2. _____ it! Why?
 - a) _____ to Christ
 - b) Daily _____ over sin
 - c) _____ and _____
3. _____ on it!

As you read & study God's word, you need to reflect on God's word. Ask yourself:

- a) **Is there a SIN to forsake?**
- b) **Is there a PROMISE to claim?**
- c) **Is there an ATTITUDES or ACTIONS to Adopt or Avoid**
- e) **Is there a COMMAND to OBEY?**
- f) **Is there an EXAMPLE to FOLLOW**