

“1 Wherefore laying aside all malice, and all guile, and hypocrisies, and envies, and all evil speakings, 2 As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby: 3 If so be ye have tasted that the Lord *is* gracious.” (1Pe 2:1-3)

Chapter One lays down the principles by which a godly life may be achieved by a child of God. These things may be summarized.

- 1:2 Elect according to the foreknowledge of God through sanctification of the Spirit and sprinkling of the blood of Christ.
- 1:3-9 We have a spiritual birth with an inheritance, and lively hope and are kept by the power of God unto this salvation; this brings us great joy.
- 1:10-26 in accordance with this salvation, we are called to be holy as God is holy, because of the immense price paid for our salvation in the blood of Christ Esp. v. 22 “we have purified our souls in obeying the truth unto unfeigned love of the brethren, see that ye love one another fervently....” Because we have been born again.

We now come to the exhortation in Chapter 2, which puzzles us, perhaps, in the light of chapter 1. What is the meaning of this. I want to examine this text under three topics: Pure Milk for the Heart; Impurities of the Old Heart; Purity of God’s grace. Note the WHEREFORE

- I. Pure Milk for the Pure Heart. Vs. “Desire the sincere milk of the Word that ye may grow thereby.
 - A. Jesus and washing the disciples’ feet. If He does not wash our feet we have no part with him. The world’s defilement does not require a second baptism or new birth, but a foot-washing. John 13.
 - B. The roots of these evil things may spring up again with evil results. Sanctification is a necessary grace that flows out of justification.
 - C. Put Off—Lay aside in terms of the Word of God. You started that way, now continue that way. Continues the figure of speech: “Like”

or "as" a newborn babe. Doesn't say that he will remain a babe. Growth is implied.

D. A new born babe desires food. It's new life desires its food.

E. "Sincere" milk. From two adjectives: wisdom [word]

1. Sincere: without guile, without hypocrisy. Open and plain.

2. Of the word: wisdom, or the inner man. Goes to the heart: Ephesians 3: 16 That he would grant you, according to the riches of his glory, to be strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner man; 17 That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love, 18 May be able to comprehend with all saints what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height; 19 And to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fullness of God.

II. Things that destroy the appetite and growth.

A. Malice: Evil. Specifically toward others. See 1:14. It means evil in general, but evil doesn't live by itself; it is attached to people.

1. So also the love of God. If you love God; you will love His people.

2. So also if you grow cold toward God, you will entertain malice toward his people. "Desire to do harm; to hurt"

a. 1Co 5:8 Therefore let us keep the feast, not with old leaven, neither with the leaven of malice and wickedness; but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.

b. 1Co 14:20 Brethren, be not children in understanding: howbeit in malice be ye children, but in understanding be men.

c. Eph 4:31 Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamor, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice:

d. Col 3:8 But now ye also put off all these; anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy communication out of your mouth.

e. Tit 3:3 For we ourselves also were sometimes foolish, disobedient, deceived, serving divers lusts and pleasures, living in malice and envy, hateful, and hating one another.

f. 1Pe 2:1 Wherefore laying aside all malice, and all guile, and hypocrisies, and envies, and all evil speakings,

3. It once was our way of life, but we found something different in Christ, and we turned from that.

4. Men will give you many occasions for malice.

B. Guile. Intelligent deceit. Use of a bait. Entrapment. Two-facedness. Thought out plan of enticement. A plan conceived in malice, to do hurt to my neighbor. I first met this word, I think when I was about 8 years old, reading Tom Sawyer. Aunt Polly Guile. You can Google it.

C. Hypocrisy. Put on another mask Goes along with guile. Flows out of malice, ill will.

D. Envy. The desire to have the chief seat. Wanting to be the smartest one in the room; desire to be above other. This is the root of malice; Pride..

E. Evil Speakings. False words. Hints and innuendos and whispers that tear down and destroy others. Words that go against the “unfeigned love of the brothers.”

F. Notice the “alls” --The list is a very long one, for malice and envy can spit out many, many devices.

G. All the filth of the hearts of men can contaminate you and work against your growth in Christ and love for the people of God. You need to have your feet washed.

H. This speaks to ME not to others.

III. Purity of God’s Grace: Has God been gracious to you? Has He freely forgiven you. How wonderful that you and I can be part of this eternal and wonderful plan of showing mercy to others. Instruments of the grace of God.

A. 16 Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness? 17 But God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin, but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you. 18 Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness. 19 I speak after the manner of men because of the infirmity of your flesh: for as ye have yielded

your members servants to uncleanness and to iniquity unto iniquity; even so now yield your members servants to righteousness unto holiness. 20 For when ye were the servants of sin, ye were free from righteousness. 21 What fruit had ye then in those things whereof ye are now ashamed? for the end of those things is death. 22 But now being made free from sin, and become servants to God, ye have your fruit unto holiness, and the end everlasting life.

B. Keep thy Heart.

1. Ps 119:34 Give me understanding, and I shall keep thy law; yea, I shall observe it with my whole heart.
2. Pr 4:4 He taught me also, and said unto me, Let thine heart retain my words: keep my commandments, and live.
3. Pr 4:23 Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life.
4. Lu 8:15 But that on the good ground are they, which in an honest and good heart, having heard the word, keep it, and bring forth fruit with patience.

Conclusion: HC

Q4: What does the Law of God require of us?

A4: Christ teaches us in sum, Matthew 22: Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it: Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.[1]

1. Luke 10:27; Deut. 6:5; Gal. 5:14

Q5: Can you keep all this perfectly?

A5: No,[1] for I am prone by nature to hate God and my neighbor.[2]

1. Rom. 3:10-12, 23; I John 1:8, 10

2. Rom. 8:7; Eph. 2:3

Q114: Can those who are converted to God keep these Commandments perfectly?

A114: No, but even the holiest men, while in this life, have only a small beginning of such obedience,[1] yet so that with earnest purpose they begin to live not only according to some, but according to all the Commandments of God.[2]

1. I John 1:8-10; Rom. 7:14-15; Eccl. 7:20

2. Rom. 7:22; James 2:10-11; Job 9:2-3; Psa. 19:13

Q115: Why then does God so strictly enjoin the Ten Commandments upon us, since in this life no one can keep them?

A115: First, that as long as we live we may learn more and more to know our sinful nature,[1] and so the more earnestly seek forgiveness of sins and righteousness in Christ;[2] second, that without ceasing we diligently ask God for the grace of the Holy Spirit, that we be renewed more and more after the image of God, until we attain the goal of perfection after this life.[3]

1. I John 1:9; Psa. 32:5

2. Rom. 7:24-25

3. I Cor. 9:24-25; Phil. 3:12-14; Matt. 5:6; Psa. 51:12