

Valley Bible Church – Sermon Transcript

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

We are beginning another section in this wonderful Epistle of First Peter. Let us read **1 Peter 2:1-3** **“Therefore, putting aside all malice and all guile and hypocrisy and envy and all slander, (2) Like newborn babes, long for the pure milk of the word, that by it you may grow in respect to salvation (3) If you have tasted the kindness of the Lord.”** The focus of these three verses is our need to crave and long for God's Word.

Genuine godliness is always marked by a love for and a delight in God's Word.

- 1) **John 8:47** **“He who is of God hears the words of God.”**
- 2) **Romans 7:22** **“I joyfully concur with the law of God in the inner man.”**
- 3) **Job 23:12** **“..... I have treasured the words of His mouth more than my necessary food.”**
- 4) **Ps. 19:10** **“They (referring to the teachings of God's Word) are more desirable than gold, yes, than much fine gold; Sweeter also than honey and the drippings of the honeycomb.”**
- 5) **Ps. 40:8** **“I delight to do Thy will, O my God; Thy Law is within my heart.”** It is characteristic of believers to rejoice in the Word of God.

Let me ask you a question. Do these verses we have read reflect the way you feel? Is the law of God more desirable to you than gold? Is it sweeter to you than honey and the drippings of the honeycomb? This is the thought behind the text this morning.

Peter is concluding a series of exhortations that are based on the greatness of our salvation. Peter is calling on us in light of everything that we have received to respond in certain specific ways.

- 1) A proper response toward God would be to live holy lives **VV. 13-21**
- 2) A proper response toward others would be to fervently love one another from the heart **VV. 22-25.**
- 3) And finally what we have seen in the passage that we have just read a proper response toward ourselves should be a strong desire for the Word of God. In light of the greatness of our salvation. Hopefully every one of us this morning are presently demonstrating a strong desire for the word of God. But I believe that the reality this is morning is not that. There are some here that have no appetite.

It behooves all of us to pay very close attention to the passage we have before us but it extremely important for those that are here this morning whose appetite may be waning.

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It tells us to long for the pure milk of the word The word “long for” is a command. And the term is a term of intensity. It means to crave. It is an intense compelling craving. This word is used in the Old Testament Septuagint a few times. One of those passages is **Ps. 42:1 “As the deer pants for the water brooks, so my souls pants for thee, O God.”** The word is found nine times in the N.T. It is used by Paul seven times. Paul uses it twice to refer for his longing for an effective ministry in **Roms. 1:11, Phil. 1:8.** Paul uses it four more times to refer to the intense longing that certain believes have for one another **2 Cor. 9:14, Phil. 2:26, 1 Thess. 3:6, 2 Tim. 1:4** and finally Paul uses the term to describe his longing for heaven in **2 Cor. 9:14.**

Again you can see the intensity of this word that Paul chooses to use here to describe the feelings that we should have for God’s Word. It would seem that we understand what it means to crave. Think back to a time when you found yourself craving something, longing for something and hopefully this will capture for you that thought that the Apostle is hoping to communicate to us here.

There are some “Got Milk” ads that have recently been shown on television that I believe capture the essence of this craving based in human need. One of the ads shows a young wife sorely disappointed because she discovered that her husband had finished the last of the milk, there is another advertisement where there is what appears to be a priest who has just eaten a piece of chocolate cake and is trying to get some milk out of a vending machine. The machine malfunctions and we are beating on the machine. Life should continually be driving us to God’s Word just as chocolate would drive us to milk. When we are confused where should we long to go? To God’s Word! When we are weak where should we long to go? To God’s word! When we are discouraged where should we long to go? To God’s Word! When we are feeling alone where should we long to go? To God’s Word ! When we are feeling sorrowful where should we long to go? To God’s Word.

When we are responding to our life situations by a deep longing to come to God’s Word we are doing well. THIS IS OUR PROPER RESPONSE, AS IT IS BEING SPELLED OUT TO US HERE, IN LIGHT OF OUR GREAT SALVATION.

You will notice that the Word of God is referred to as “**pure milk.**” The verse says, “**Like newborn babes long for the pure milk of the word.**” The word translated “**pure**” is the Greek word “ADOLON.” It simply means unadulterated or uncontaminated. When we face the challenges of this life. When we are faced with the challenge of being all that God has called us to be in this world we are to desire , long for the Word of God only.

I am becoming concerned, when we as God’s children are not elevating God’s Word to its proper level.

There are many in the church today who are looking at the truths contained in this book as insufficient and are unconsciously seeking to supplement it with human reasoning. This is particularly true in the counseling profession. This is true even amongst so called Christian counselors. Rather than helping the cause of Christ I believe that many Christian counselors are leading people away from the pure milk of the word to drink contaminated milk mixed with the reasoning of men.

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There are many in the church today who will seek to impose their personal convictions about certain applications of God's Word on the life of others and would represent their opinions as God's standard.

May the Lord protect us from looking to men and their personal reasoning or to their opinions as the standard by which we must grow but rather let us look the God's Word alone as the sole source of our faith and practice and give human reasoning and opinion its proper place which is to dwell in the shadow of God's Word.

We are to have a craving for the Word of God. Unadulterated and uncontaminated. Now listen to me. He does not say "read the word." Although Paul does say that in **1 Tim. 4:13** but he does not say that here. He does not say study the word although he does say that in **2 Tim. 2:15**. He does not say to meditate on the word even though we are taught the importance of that in **Josh. 1:8**. We are not told to teach the Word although Paul does say that in **1 Tim. 4:11**. We are not told to preach it even though we taught that in **2 Tim. 4:2**. We are not told hide it in our hearts even though we are commanded to do that in **Ps. 119:11**. In this passage we are being told to do something more basic than all of these things. In this passage we are being commanded to do something more basic than all of these things. What are we being commanded to do? Long for the pure milk of the Word .

The love for the truth of God's Word is present at our salvation. It is impossible to be born into God's family through the truth without a love for the vehicle that brought us into God's presence. In **1 Thess. 2:8-10** "**And then the lawless one will be revealed whom the Lord will slay with the breath of His mouth and bring to an end by the appearance of His coming; (9) that is, the one whose coming is in accord with the activity of Satan, with all power and signs and false wonders, (10) And with all the deception of wickedness for those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth so as to be saved.**" Those that are saved receive the love of the truth. It is a wonderful thing to witness the enthusiasm that young believers have for God's Word.

Should our desire for God's Word change? Of course not!! But yet the possibility that this could happen is obvious because of what we read here. We need to stop at this point and ask ourselves the question has something changed in us? Have we somehow misplaced that love for God's Word?

If you are hungering for the pure milk of the Word then praise God. But if you are here this morning and this has not been your experience but rather you have seen a gradual diminishing of your interest in the Bible then I am glad you are here this morning.

We are going to be considering over the next several weeks certain things that you need to commit yourself too which are all based on this passage before us. If you would consider the things that I will be sharing with you from the passage before us this morning you will hopefully be able to recover that love for the Scriptures. **HOW CAN WE RECOVER OUR LOVE AND LONGING FOR THE PURE UNCONTAMINATED, UNADULTERATED WORD OF GOD?**

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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!!! I had a woman who began to pursue psychotherapy for a healing of her problems. She had ceased longing for the pure milk of the Word. Why? Because she said it did not work. If it didn’t work the fault did not lie with the word. 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 for what it will do. God forbid!!

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 thee 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.”**

CONCLUSION

I know that we are all being tested from without and from within. Let us not in the midst of these testings forget the power of God’s Word. It was through the Word of God that the physical world came into existence. And it was through the Word of God that I was born again. I know it’s power and I am not going to allow myself to be distracted by all the junk food of this world .

Let us remember the medium through which we were given birth and may we cling to it with a passion that would be pleasing to the Lord.