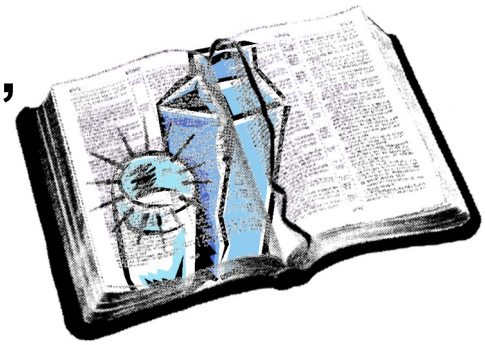
“A Desire for Milk”



I Peter 2:1-3
11-7-2021

INTRODUCTION:

The Bible is to the soul what milk is to the body.

You need a desire for the Word!

Three ways to stimulate your appetite for the Word:

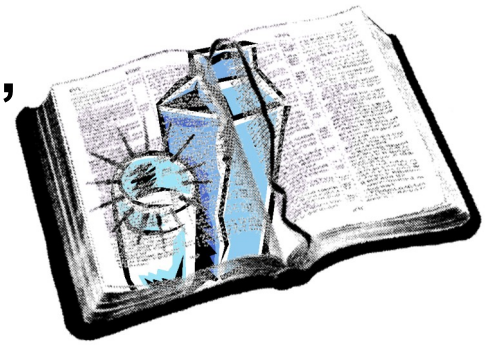
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II. Realize the wholesome goodness and growth that comes from the Word (v. 2)

III. Experience the good grace of God and your appetite will be stimulated for the Word (v. 3)

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V. 1

"Wherefore" - Peter now draws an application on the subject of the *"Word of God"* mentioned in 1:23-25.

Once *"born again"* (1:23) by the word, God expects us to *"grow"* by the Word.

The only imperative of vv. 1-3 is the word ***"desire".*** This word is the main thrust of the opening of chapter 2.

V. 2

***"As newborn babes"* =** as recently-born nursing babies.

Babies have a natural desire for milk. They are born with a natural instinct to suck. They crave milk. They can't make it without their "bottle."

Only milk satisfies the hunger of an infant. Those mothers who experienced the joy of 2:00 a.m. feedings know exactly what Peter means (Barbieri, p. 47).

Peter is not necessarily addressing young Christians; rather he is saying that all of us,, no matter how old in the Lord, should be like newly born babes and share their intense craving for milk.

"Desire" - Aorist imperative meaning to "begin desiring," to "start desiring."

Apparently, the people to whom Peter writes had lost their appetite for God's Word, so Peter exhorts them to regain it.

"Desire" - to long for; to crave; to have an intense hunger.

David had such a craving for God (Psalm 42:1-2 - *"As the hart panteth after the water brooks, so panteth my soul after thee, O God. My soul thirsteth for God, for the living God: when shall I come and appear before God?"*).

SEE: Psalm 119:20, 40, 131. David was a man *"after God's own heart"* as evidenced by his love for God's Word (Ps. 119:47, 97, 127, 163, 165). God's Word was sweeter than honey (v. 103) and of more value than silver and gold (v. 72).
The fact that God commands us to have a *"desire"* for His Word, tells me that such "desire" is not always automatically in our hearts.

We need to be exhorted to "desire" God's Word.

The Bible is to the soul what milk is to the body.

***You need a desire for the Word!**

Three ways to stimulate your appetite for the Word:

I. Rid yourself of the sins that ruin your appetite for the Word (v. 1)

"Sometimes children have no appetite because they have been eating the wrong things" (Wiersbe, p. 400).

Peter lists five villains that will rob your appetite for God's Word.

These are obvious road blocks to benefitting from the Word. Such sins will rob your thirst for the Word.

If your life is filled with sin, there will be no room for God's Word.

"Laying aside" = to place away from oneself; to put off and discard; to strip off and throw away; to get rid of.

"Laying aside" - Aorist middle participle - "after laying aside; having laid aside"

This participle is connected to the imperative verb in v. 2, conveying the truth that before one will have a desire for the Word, he must first rid himself of the sins which rob one's appetite for the Word.

The old saying is true: "This Book [the Bible] will keep you from sin, but sin will keep you from this Book."

The word ***"all"*** occurs three times, showing that we cannot be content with a partial cleaning of our lives, but a total removal of the filth that dirties and defiles our souls.

"Malice" - evil, badness; a broad term for wickedness.

Peter uses this general "catch-all" term and uses the adjective ***"all"*** to show how believers should tolerate no form of badness in their lives. Anything that does not conform to God's moral law must be discarded.

"Malice" would include:

1) Bad feelings toward others (anger, lack of forgiveness)

2) Bad thinking (lusts, selfishness, etc.)
3) Bad actions

"Guile" - deceitfulness; the word means to catch with bait.

Any form of seduction; any form of entrapment; any trickery or deceitful words and actions so as to selfishly gain something from another person is guile (EX: how many men will "wine and dine," "butter up," pretend romance, and say words of "love" so as to manipulate to get what he wants).

Any form of deceit for selfish gain is wrong. People practice guile for financial gain, for sexual manipulation, for fame, power, and status, etc.

God's people are to be people of truth, sincerity, fidelity.

"Hypocrisies" = play acting to pretend you are someone you are not. A hypocrite is someone who "wears a mask" with the intention of deceiving.

We, however, are to be sincere, real, genuine.

This does <u>not</u> mean that we should "spill our guts," and let the putrefying, disgusting feelings we have out (so as to ruin the lives of others who have to endure the stench of the sewage that pours out of our lives).

"Envies" - this word describes one who holds a grudge against someone because they possess something that you yourself do not have.

Such ill feelings toward those who have something you do not is evil.

God calls a covetous spirit *"idolatry"* and it is a violation of the tenth commandment (Exod. 20:17).

[Envy may also be a desire that others do not get that which you yourself do not have.]

A misplaced desire for that which God has not given you will prevent you from desiring that which God does have for you - His Word.

"Evil speakings" - slanderous speech; lit. to speak against or to speak down upon. To belittle; to degrade; to backbite; to devour someone with your words, to gossip about; to speak down upon;; to run someone down; to tear them down; to put someone down verbally.

(Most people put others down so as to lift themselves up)

Peter is speaking of a "vice that deliberately assaults the character of another and usually takes place behind the victim's back" (Hiebert, p. 122).

Don't be a character assassinator!

God says *"Speak not evil one of another, brethren."* He also says, *"If you bite and devour one another, take heed lest you consume one another."*

"Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth. . ."

God's pure word is totally <u>incompatible</u> with these attitudes and actions.

Such sin in the life of a Christian will immediately curdle any ingested milk, and will leave your life feeling sick and disinterested in "milk" consumption.

"Sinful attitudes and acts must be put out of the life before there will be any enjoyment of the Word" (Anderson, RBP, p. 34).

A spiritual enema must be taken to expel the toxic poisons from our system so that we will benefit from the milk of God's Word.

II. Realize the <u>wholesome goodness</u> and <u>growth</u> that comes from the Word (v. 2)

***"Sincere"* =** EX: In America, many milk containers and milk products have the word "real" printed in bold red letters to emphasize the pure, genuine, pasteurized,a nd homogenized nature of the milk in the container.

"Sincere" - [*adolos* - a negated form of *dolos* (guile - v. 1)] The word means without guile, without deceit, without impurity.

The Word of God is pure, unadulterated, uncontaminated.
This word was used of corn, wheat, barley, oil, wine, and other farm products that were free of contamination (Reinecker, p. 750).

The Bible is genuine; it is pure. It only tells the truth, always; it will never deceive.

Because all Scripture is given by inspiration of God, it has no impurities or contaminants introduced by man.

"Milk" - the Bible is called "milk" because like milk it is a basic necessity to life. It nourishes our spiritual life, like milk nourishes our physical bodies.

Calling upon believers to crave the *"milk"* of the Word is by no means implying that believers were not mature enough to handle the *"meat"* of the Word (cp. Heb. 5:12-14; I Cor. 3:2). God is simply showing our need for the basic nutrition found in God's Word.

Why should believers consume the Word? ***"That [hina] you may grow thereby."***

Christian maturity comes only to those who have a daily intake of the Word of God.

You see, you mature as your faith grows; and your faith can only grow as you learn, trust, and obey God's Word (*"Faith cometh by hearing, and hearing the Word of God"* - Rom. 10:17).

The word ***"grow"*** is passive, indicating that the growth is not self-induced.

Just as you have no control over you speed and rate of growth physically (you simply eat, sleep, and exercise, and somehow the growth process occurs irrespective of your desire to grow [Mt. 6:27]), so, if you consume God's Word, the Word will cause you to grow.

You cannot independently manufacture your own spiritual growth. God causes you to grow as you receive the needed nutrients of His Word.

The critical text reads: "that you may grow in respect to salvation."

NOTE: One does not grow into receiving salvation (obtaining salvation requires "birth" [the new birth], not growth). But one does grow into the benefits and blessings of his/her salvation (cp. Phil. 2:12) by a daily drinking of the Word.

You can measure your spiritual growth by the quantity of the Word you are drinking in daily:much milk - much growth
little milk - little growth
no milk - no growth

Our physical bodies drink milk and only grow to a certain level and then stop (EX: 6'2"). There is no limit, however, to the growth we experience by drinking in God's Word.

Your spiritual maturity as a Christian will increase in direct proportion to the amount of time, interest, and diligence you invest in the Word (cp. Barbieri, p. 47).

Unfortunately, Bible reading for many is like an "occasional snack" that barely provides any substantial fullness to our spiritual stomachs.

Col. 3:16 says, however, that you should *"let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom"*

How strong is your appetite for God's Word? You answer is "an index of your Christian health" (Hiebert, p. 124).

Do you want to know why you feel "weak" spiritually? Why you have no power over your fleshly impulses? Why you struggle to do what is right? etc. The reason is because you have neglected your milk!

There are a lot of spiritually malnourished, dehydrated, weak Christians struggling with their walk with the Lord. The reason: they are not drinking their milk.

III. Experience the good grace of God and your appetite will be stimulated for the Word (v. 3)

The prerequisite to having a desire for God's Word is to taste of God's grace.

"If so be" - (i.e. "since you have tasted") This first-class condition assumes that they did taste of God's grace.

After that first taste, what they tasted was so refreshing, so satisfying that they

should have further interest in what God has.

At the University of Chicago Divinity School each year they have what is called "Baptist Day". It is a day when all the Baptists in the area are invited to the school because they want the Baptist dollars to keep coming in. On this day each one is to bring a lunch to be eaten outdoors in a grassy picnic area. Every "Baptist Day" the school would invite one of the greatest minds to lecture in the theological education center. One year they invited Dr. Paul Tillich.

Dr. Tillich spoke for two and one-half hours proving that the resurrection of JESUS was false. He quoted scholar after scholar and book after book. He concluded that since there was no such thing as the historical resurrection the religious tradition of the church was groundless, emotional mumbo-jumbo, because it was based on a relationship with a risen JESUS, who, in fact, never rose from the dead in any literal sense. He then asked if there were any questions.

After about 30 seconds, an old, dark skinned preacher with a head of short-cropped, woolly white hair stood up in the back of the auditorium. "Docta Tillich, I got one question," he said as all eyes turned toward him. He reached into his sack lunch and pulled out an apple and began eating it.

"Docta Tillich..." CRUNCH, MUNCH... "My question is a simple questio," CRUNCH, MUNCH..."Now I ain't never read them books you read... " CRUNCH, MUNCH... "and I can't recite the Scriptures in the original Greek... " CRUNCH, MUNCH... "I don't know nothin' about Niebuhr and Heidegger..." CRUNCH, MUNCH...he finished the apple. "All I wanna know is this apple I just ate...was it bitter or sweet?"

Dr. Tillich paused for a moment and answered in exemplary scholarly fashion: "I cannot possibly answer that question, for I haven't tasted your apple."

The white-haired preacher dropped the core of his apple into his crumpled paper bag, looked up at Dr. Tillich and said calmly, "Neither have you tasted my JESUS."

The 1,000 plus in attendance could not contain themselves. The auditorium erupted with applause and cheers. Dr. Tillich thanked his audience and promptly left the platform.

Have you tasted Jesus? In Psalms 34:8 we read, "Taste and see that the LORD is good; blessed is the man who takes refuge in HIM." If you have, rejoice in the hope of the resurrection that your faith in HIM brings!
The more you taste of God's grace, the more you want to taste. The more you read, the more you want to read.

The incentive we have to desire God's Word is the fact that our taste buds have experienced His amazing grace!

You who have tasted (experienced) the truth of the grace of god should have a desire to experience more of His truth.

God is not calling on the lost to desire His Word. The unsaved do not crave His

Word -- they abhor it! It's a bore! It doesn't make sense!

It was my experience of God's saving grace, that whet my appetite for His Word. Prior to hearing and believing the Gospel, His Word had no appear to me.

The word ***"taste"*** does not mean a mere sampling, but it means to fully experience. Just as the Lord Jesus *"tasted death for every man"* (Heb. 2:9).

Psalm 34:8 - *"O taste and see that the Lord is good: blessed is the man that trusteth in Him"*

If the Lord is good, His Word must also be good.

If you have tasted of His goodness, taste His Word and you will find it tot be every bit as good (since the Lord and His Word form a unity).

CONCLUSION:

Do you crave God's Word?

1) Are there sins in your life that are preventing you from reading it?

2) Do you realize the potential for growth in your life by reading it?

3) Have you tasted God's grace?

Ask God to give you a desire for His Word.