

LIVING IN EXILE

1 Peter 2:1-3— Taste & See

February 28, 2016

...if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.

1 Peter 2:3

I. THE WORD OF GOD - PURE SPIRITUAL MILK

- Peter continues to beat on the same drum: the word of God, his gospel, brings about not only salvation, but subsequent spiritual growth as well (Ps. 119:105; Luke 8:11-15; 1 Pet. 1:23).
- Malice, deceit, hypocrisy, envy and slander tear at the fabric of love, particularly within the body of Christ (Num. 12; 16; Prov. 20:19; Eph. 4:30-32).
- We approach God with the innocence of children. He teaches, we learn (vs. 2; Matt. 18:2-4).
- We grow up into salvation via the word. God's living word renews us. His abiding word maintains us and grows us into mature followers (Eph. 4:11-16).
- God sanctifies us through the mind via the proclamation of the word. Spiritual growth is primarily rational, not mystical (vs. 2; Mark 4:26-34; Eph. 4:15).

II. TASTING THE GOODNESS OF GOD

- Vs. 3: "If indeed." Peter is not sowing seeds of doubt here, he's simply inviting us to ask a reasonable question (1 Cor. 3:13; 2 Cor. 13:5).
- The themes of Psalm 34 were clearly in Peter's mind when he composed this letter (vs. 3; 1:6-7, 17; 2:6; 3:2, 10-12, 14-16).
- "Tasting" the goodness of God naturally leads to a desire to know him more (Job 42:5-6; Ps. 119:102-104; Gal. 4:9).

KNOW: We "taste" of the Lord in his word. It is here that God reveals himself to us most fully, and it is by the use of the word that we grow to Christian maturity.

DO: Grow up in your salvation.

Suggested Reading:

How to Read the Bible for All Its Worth, by Gordon Fee/Doug Stuart
The Pursuit of God, by A.W. Tozer

Questions/Discovery Points for Life Groups/Families

Please read 1 Peter 2:1-3

1. Peter calls on us to "put away" multiple negative traits. How do we put them away? Why is it so hard to do so?
2. Here we are called to be like infants in our approach to God; in Eph. 4:14 we are called not to be like infants. Which is right? How do we determine the meaning of these biblical teachings when they say opposite things in different places?
3. What analogy is Peter trying to draw upon when he calls the word of God "pure spiritual milk"? What's his point?
4. Is it God's work or our work for us to grow into salvation/sanctification? (see Luke 9:61-62; Phil. 2:12-13)
5. Share among your group the different ways you go about doing devotions, scripture reading, scripture memorization, etc.
6. What steps will you take to "long for" the pure spiritual nourishment of God's word?