



Date: January 26, 2020

1 Peter 1:20-2:3

(New Living Translation)

<sup>20</sup> God chose him [Jesus] as your ransom long before the world began, but now in these last days he has been revealed for your sake.

<sup>21</sup> Through Christ you have come to trust in God. And you have placed your faith and hope in God because he<sup>1</sup> raised Christ from the dead and gave him great glory.

<sup>22</sup> You were cleansed from your sins when you obeyed the truth,<sup>2</sup> so now you must show sincere love to each other as brothers and sisters. Love each other deeply<sup>3</sup> with all your heart.

<sup>23</sup> For you have been born again, but not to a life that will quickly end. Your new life will last forever because it comes from the eternal, living word of God. <sup>24</sup> As the Scriptures say,

“People are like grass; their beauty is like a flower in the field. The grass withers and the flower fades. <sup>25</sup> But the word of the Lord remains forever.”

And that word is the Good News that was preached to you.

2:1 - So get rid of all evil behavior. Be done with all deceit, hypocrisy, jealousy, and all unkind speech. <sup>2</sup> Like newborn babies, you must crave pure spiritual milk so that you will grow into a full experience of salvation. Cry out for this nourishment, <sup>3</sup> now that you have had a taste of the Lord's kindness.<sup>3</sup>

---

<sup>1</sup> Who raised Jesus from the dead? God-the-Father raised God-the-Son [Jesus] from the dead.

<sup>2</sup> “Obeyed the truth” = vs 21 when you “Placed your faith and hope in the fact the God raised Jesus from the dead” i.e. We did not earn our salvation by works of righteousness but instead we receive it as a free gift by grace through faith by believing in the truth – Jesus, the God-man, crucified for our sake, buried, risen, and coming again.

<sup>3</sup> Following the “Milk” metaphor – if Milk = the Word of God, how then is it that we “Taste” and see that God is good? What do we consume and savor?



In verse thirteen of 1 Peter 1 we begin to see our first commands, but not until after Peter has explained what God has done for us (verses 1-12).

Why is that?

### Commands in **Green** in 1 Peter 1

**1** Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ,

To those who are elect exiles of the Dispersion in Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia, <sup>2</sup> according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, in the sanctification of the Spirit, for obedience to Jesus Christ and for sprinkling with his blood:

May grace and peace be multiplied to you.

<sup>3</sup> Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, <sup>4</sup> to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, <sup>5</sup> who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. <sup>6</sup> In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, <sup>7</sup> so that the tested genuineness of your faith—more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ. <sup>8</sup> Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you do not now see him, you believe in him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory, <sup>9</sup> obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

<sup>10</sup> Concerning this salvation, the prophets who prophesied about the grace that was to be yours searched and inquired carefully, <sup>11</sup> inquiring what person or time the Spirit of Christ in them was indicating when he predicted the sufferings of Christ and the subsequent glories. <sup>12</sup> It was revealed to them that they were serving not themselves but you, in the things that have now been announced to you through those who preached the good news to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven, things into which angels long to look.

<sup>13</sup> Therefore, preparing your minds for action, and being sober-minded, set your **hope** fully on the grace that will be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ. <sup>14</sup> As obedient children, do not be conformed to the passions of your former ignorance, <sup>15</sup> but as he who called you is holy, you also **be** holy in all your conduct, <sup>16</sup> since it is written, <sup>17</sup> "You shall be holy, for I am holy." <sup>18</sup> And if you call on him as Father who judges impartially according to each one's deeds, **conduct** yourselves with fear throughout the time of your exile, <sup>19</sup> knowing that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold, <sup>20</sup> but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot. <sup>21</sup> He was foreknown before the foundation of the world but was made manifest in the last times for the sake of you <sup>22</sup> who through him are believers in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God.

<sup>22</sup> Having purified your souls by your obedience to the truth for a sincere brotherly love, **love** one another earnestly from a pure heart, <sup>23</sup> since you have been born again, not of perishable seed but of imperishable, through the living and abiding word of God; <sup>24</sup> for

<sup>25</sup> "All flesh is like grass

and all its glory like the flower of grass.

The grass withers,

and the flower falls,

<sup>25</sup> but the word of the Lord remains forever."

And this word is the good news that was preached to you.

**2** So put away all malice and all deceit and hypocrisy and envy and all slander. <sup>2</sup> Like newborn infants, **long** for the pure spiritual milk, that by it you may grow up into salvation— <sup>3</sup> if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.

What God did comes before what we do because, *"What we do is grounded in What God has done."* Edmund P. Clowney, *The Message of 1 Peter: The Way of the Cross*, The Bible Speaks Today (Leicester, England; Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1988), 74.

Being cleansed and born again means that I no longer am slave to my own sinful desires, but instead, I am free, clean, and given the opportunity to love fully as I have been loved (vs 22).



Questions:

1. According to 1 Peter 1:23, what is the means (agency) by which we are born again?<sup>ii</sup>
2. How does that work?
3. What does that teach us about the importance of that *thing*?
4. How does that *thing* fit into our ongoing development and growth as Christians?
5. Peter and Paul mean different things when they use the word “Milk” in relation to God’s truth.
  - a. What Does Peter mean in this passage? (What is this metaphor indicating? Is milk used positively or negatively? How does your understanding of human development provide additional depth to Peter’s word picture for scripture – What connections do you see?)
  - b. What does Paul mean in 1 Corinthians 3:2 when he uses the word “Milk” ?
  - c. Do they Contradict?
  - d. What is the point?<sup>iii</sup>
6. How should that impact the focus of the ministry and ministries of the church?<sup>iv</sup>



7. Please share with your group the most effective ways you have found to get the word of God into your life and take note of any suggestions that may appeal to or work for you. (the Word of God - Not other spiritual input, but the actual, undiluted word itself – the very words of God – The Bible)<sup>v</sup>
  
8. Please Read out loud and discuss Psalm one.

Psalm 1:1–6 (NLT)

- <sup>1</sup> Oh, the joys of those who do not follow the advice of the wicked,  
or stand around with sinners, or join in with mockers.
- <sup>2</sup> But they delight in the law of the LORD, meditating on it day and night.
- <sup>3</sup> They are like trees planted along the riverbank, bearing fruit each season.  
Their leaves never wither, and they prosper in all they do.
- <sup>4</sup> But not the wicked! They are like worthless chaff, scattered by the wind.
- <sup>5</sup> They will be condemned at the time of judgment. Sinners will have no place among the  
godly.
- <sup>6</sup> For the LORD watches over the path of the godly, but the path of the wicked leads to  
destruction.



<sup>i</sup> “**Earnestly**”\_ describes the intensity of our love for others.

Drawn from the world of **athletics**, this word means “**to exert oneself with all of one’s energy.**” This kind of love is something that a person must work at, even when life is difficult. The love we extend to one another must be **constant** and **enduring, unshaken by adversity or painful circumstances.**

David Walls and Max Anders, *I & II Peter, I, II & III John, Jude*, vol. 11, Holman New Testament Commentary (Nashville, TN: Broadman & Holman Publishers, 1999), 15.

<sup>ii</sup> “It is the *word of God*, the good news of the gospel, that is the means both of our new birth and of our nurture in holiness.”

Edmund P. Clowney, *The Message of 1 Peter: The Way of the Cross*, The Bible Speaks Today (Leicester, England; Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1988), 75.

The new birth is brought about **through the agency** of the Word of God.

The Word of God is **the instrument** for the communication of the new birth.

The **word** here includes the Old Testament Scriptures, the New Testament apostolic proclamation, and the presentation of both in the message

The Word of God stands forever because the God who speaks it is the eternal, faithful, powerful one who always keeps his promises.

This Word stands as the foundation for Christian preaching. Through it you may come to know Jesus Christ as Savior and receive the eternal, living hope.

David Walls and Max Anders, *I & II Peter, I, II & III John, Jude*, vol. 11, Holman New Testament Commentary (Nashville, TN: Broadman & Holman Publishers, 1999), 15–16.

### Hebrews 4:11–13 (ESV)

<sup>11</sup> Let us therefore strive to enter that rest, so that no one may fall by the same sort of disobedience.

<sup>12</sup> For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart.

<sup>13</sup> And no creature is hidden from his sight, but all are naked and exposed to the eyes of him to whom we must give account.

### Romans 15:4 (NLT)

Such things were written in the Scriptures long ago to teach us.

And the Scriptures give us **hope** and **encouragement as we wait patiently for God’s promises to be fulfilled.**

iii **Milk**

Any delay at feeding-time brings a powerful reaction from the tiny person.

**For an infant, milk is not a fringe benefit.**

They must have an infant's desperate desire for basic nourishment.

Edmund P. Clowney, *The Message of 1 Peter: The Way of the Cross*, The Bible Speaks Today (Leicester, England; Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1988), 78.

Peter, however, is not thinking of milk as infant diet to be replaced by meat. In Peter's figure the **milk** of the abiding word is simply **the Christian's necessary food.**

Edmund P. Clowney, *The Message of 1 Peter: The Way of the Cross*, The Bible Speaks Today (Leicester, England; Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1988), 78.

When Paul describes how the church is built up in faith, he begins with the ministry of the word. By the word the Lord's servant is equipped for the upbuilding of the saints.

Edmund P. Clowney, *The Message of 1 Peter: The Way of the Cross*, The Bible Speaks Today (Leicester, England; Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1988), 80.

**Ephesians 4:11–12 (ESV)**

And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ,

**MEAT**

**1 Corinthians 3:2 (ESV)**

<sup>2</sup> I fed you with milk, not solid food, for you were not ready for it. And even now you are not yet ready,

**Hebrews 5:12 (ESV)**

<sup>12</sup> For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you again the basic principles of the oracles of God. You need milk, not solid food,

iv **The Content of Preaching**

The Word of God was the content of Peter's (**1 Peter 1:25**) {and Paul's} preaching.

David Walls and Max Anders, *I & II Peter, I, II & III John, Jude*, vol. 11, Holman New Testament Commentary (Nashville, TN: Broadman & Holman Publishers, 1999), 28.

**Acts 20:26 (ESV)**

Therefore I testify to you this day that I am innocent of the blood of all, for **I did not shrink from declaring to you the whole counsel of God.**

**2 Timothy 4:1–8 (ESV)**

I charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by his appearing and his kingdom: <sup>2</sup> **preach the word**; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, and exhort, with complete patience and teaching. <sup>3</sup> For the time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching, but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions, <sup>4</sup> and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander off into myths. <sup>5</sup> As for you, always be sober-minded, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry.

<sup>6</sup> For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure has come. <sup>7</sup> I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. <sup>8</sup> Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that day, and not only to me but also to all who have loved his appearing.



^ **Examples** may include but are not limited to –  
Audio Books, Scripture Typer, Various Apps, Reading a hard copy, Having it delivered via e-mail to your inbox, getting up early, etc.