

1 Peter 2:1-3 Sermon — How to Grow After Salvation

1 Peter 2:1-3

[PPT → 1 Peter 2:1-3]

1 Peter 2:1-3 “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.”

INTRODUCTION

- Peter is writing to saved people scattered throughout Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia.
 - They were living as strangers in the world.
 - They were facing pressure and suffering.
 - Peter is teaching them how to live faithfully because of the salvation they already have.
- Chapter 1 lays the foundation:
 - Their faith.
 - Their salvation.
 - Holiness.
 - Loving the brethren.
 - Being born again.
 - The word of God that lives and abides for ever.
- As chapter 2 begins, Peter starts showing them how people who have been given that new life ought to live.
 - Later in the chapter, Peter will explain more about who they are in Christ and how they ought to live.
 - These first three verses deal with something every believer needs: **spiritual growth**.
- Right before chapter 2, Peter says:

[PPT → 1 Peter 1:23-25]

1 Peter 1:23-25 “Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever. **24** For all flesh is as grass, and all the glory of man as the flower of grass. The grass withereth, and the flower thereof falleth away: **25** But the word of the Lord endureth for ever. And this is the word which by the gospel is preached unto you.”

- Chapter 2 starts with one little word: **Wherefore**.
 - Because of what Peter has already said, here is how these believers ought to live.
 - They have been born again.
 - They have received the word.
 - They have been commanded to love the brethren.

- **[REPEAT] Lay aside. Desire. Grow.**
 - There are things in our lives that need to go.
 - There is something we need to hunger for.
 - There is growth that should take place after we are saved.

I. LAY ASIDE WHAT CORRUPTS CHRISTIAN LOVE — 1 PETER 2:1

[PPT → 1 Peter 2:1]

1 Peter 2:1 “Wherefore laying aside all malice, and all guile, and hypocrisies, and envies, and all evil speakings,”

- Peter says laying aside. **Put these things away.**
 - Malice — wanting hurt or harm for somebody.
 - Guile — deceit.
 - Hypocrisy — pretending to be one thing while really being something else.
 - Envy — resenting somebody because of what they have, what they did, or how they were treated.
 - Evil speaking — using your mouth in a wicked way against somebody.
- **[STRONG]** Peter says **all of it needs to go.**
- Look at what envy did to Saul.

[PPT → 1 Samuel 18:8-9]

1 Samuel 18:8-9 “And Saul was very wroth, and the saying displeased him; and he said, They have ascribed unto David ten thousands, and to me they have ascribed but thousands: and what can he have more but the kingdom? **9** And Saul eyed David from that day and forward.”

- David did well, and Saul could not stand that David got more praise than he did.
 - From that day forward, Saul started looking at David differently.
 - **That is envy.**
- Somebody else gets praised.
 - Somebody else gets the opportunity.
 - Somebody else succeeds.
 - Somebody else is noticed.
 - Instead of being glad for them, you start looking at them differently.
- **[STRONG]** Peter says: **Lay that aside.**
- Then Peter says all evil speakings.
- **[QUESTION]** Does that mean a Christian can never say anything negative about anybody?
 - Can a preacher never rebuke somebody?
 - Can we never warn somebody about bad doctrine or sinful behavior?
- The Bible answers that.

[PPT → 2 Timothy 4:2]

2 Timothy 4:2 “Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine.”

- The Bible commands rebuke.
 - Rebuke and evil speaking cannot be the same thing.
 - You can tell somebody they are wrong without speaking evil.
 - You can warn somebody without having malice in your heart.
- Jesus also warned about hypocritical correction.

[PPT → Matthew 7:1-5]

Matthew 7:1-5 “Judge not, that ye be not judged. **2** For with what judgment ye judge, ye shall be judged: and with what measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you again. **3** And why beholdest thou the mote that is in thy brother’s eye, but considerest not the beam that is in thine own eye? **4** Or how wilt thou say to thy brother, Let me pull out the mote out of thine eye; and, behold, a beam is in thine own eye? **5** Thou hypocrite, first cast out the beam out of thine own eye; and then shalt thou see clearly to cast out the mote out of thy brother’s eye.”

- Jesus did not say the mote should stay in the brother's eye.
 - Get the beam out of your own eye first.
 - Then you can see clearly to help your brother.
- **[WARNING]** Do not correct somebody out of malice.
 - Do not rebuke somebody because you envy them.
 - Do not point at somebody else's problem while you are living like a hypocrite.
- Now go back to Peter.

[PPT → 1 Peter 2:1]

1 Peter 2:1 “Wherefore laying aside all malice, and all guile, and hypocrisies, and envies, and all evil speakings,”

- Peter is talking to believers.
 - Saved people can struggle with these things.
 - **[QUESTION]** If they could not, why would Peter tell them to lay them aside?
- Do not turn this verse into: “If somebody has envy, they were never saved.”
 - Peter is talking to born-again people.
 - He is telling born-again people how they ought to live.
- **[QUESTION]** What needs to go in your life?
 - Malice?
 - Envy?
 - Hypocrisy?
 - Deceit?
 - The way you talk about people?
- **[STRONG]** Lay it aside.

II. DESIRE THE WORD SO YOU CAN GROW — 1 PETER 2:2

[PPT → 1 Peter 2:2]

1 Peter 2:2 “As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby:”

- Peter says: As newborn babes, desire.
- **[QUESTION]** What does a newborn baby do when it is hungry?
 - It wants milk.
 - You do not have to convince that baby to eat.
 - The baby wants it.
- Peter says that is how we ought to desire the word of God.
- Some people read newborn babes and milk and immediately think Peter is calling these people immature Christians.
 - Why?
 - Because other passages use milk that way.
- Look at Corinthians.

[PPT → 1 Corinthians 3:1-3]

1 Corinthians 3:1-3 “And I, brethren, could not speak unto you as unto spiritual, but as unto carnal, even as unto babes in Christ. **2** I have fed you with milk, and not with meat: for hitherto ye were not able to bear it, neither yet now are ye able. **3** For ye are yet carnal: for whereas there is among you envying, and strife, and divisions, are ye not carnal, and walk as men?”

- Paul is rebuking the Corinthians.
 - He says they are carnal.
 - They should be farther along than they are.
- Hebrews uses milk the same way.

[PPT → Hebrews 5:12-13]

Hebrews 5:12-13 “For when for the time ye ought to be teachers, ye have need that one teach you again which be the first principles of the oracles of God; and are become such as have need of milk, and not of strong meat. **13** For every one that useth milk is unskilful in the word of righteousness: for he is a babe.”

- So yes, milk can be used that way.
- **[QUESTION]** But is that what Peter is doing?
- Read Peter again.

[PPT → 1 Peter 2:2]

1 Peter 2:2 “As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby:”

- Peter is not rebuking them for drinking milk.
 - He tells them to desire it.
- Notice what he says: As newborn babes, desire.
 - He is pointing to the baby's appetite.
 - A newborn wants milk.
 - Peter says you ought to want the word of God like that.
- Peter does not say milk means only basic doctrine.
 - There is no meat mentioned here.

- There is no command to move past the milk.
- Peter calls it the sincere milk of the word.
- **God's word is what feeds you.**

[PPT → Psalms 19:7-10]

Psalms 19:7-10 “The law of the LORD is perfect, converting the soul: the testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple. **8** The statutes of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart: the commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes. **9** The fear of the LORD is clean, enduring for ever: the judgments of the LORD are true and righteous altogether. **10** More to be desired are they than gold, yea, than much fine gold: sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb.”

- **[QUESTION]** Do you desire the Bible like that?
- Do you want to know what God said?
 - When the Bible corrects you, do you want to hear it?
 - When you hear preaching, are you listening for Scripture?
 - Or are you just waiting for the service to be over?
- Peter says: **Desire it.**
- Then he tells you why: that ye may grow thereby.
- Some may say: “See, you grow into salvation. You have to keep growing to finally be saved.”
- **[STRONG] No. Look at Peter's order.**
- First he says they are born again.

[PPT → 1 Peter 1:23]

1 Peter 1:23 “Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever.”

- Then he tells them to grow.

[PPT → 1 Peter 2:2]

1 Peter 2:2 “As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby:”

- **[REPEAT] Born again first. Growth afterward.**
- You do not grow until eventually God saves you.
 - You get saved.
 - Then you need to grow.
- Growth is not automatic.
 - Peter commands them to desire the word.
 - Corinthians shows saved people who were carnal, envious, and divided.
- **[QUESTION]** If you are not growing:
 - Am I feeding on the word?
 - Am I listening to it?
 - Am I obeying it?
 - Am I holding on to the very sins Peter just told me to lay aside?
- **[REPEAT] Lay aside. Desire. Grow.**

III. REMEMBER THAT THE LORD IS GRACIOUS — 1 PETER 2:3

[PPT → 1 Peter 2:3]

1 Peter 2:3 “If so be ye have tasted that the Lord is gracious.”

- Peter says: If so be ye have tasted.
- **[QUESTION]** Does that mean Peter suddenly doubts whether these people are saved?
 - I do not believe so.
 - Go back to chapter 1.
 - He has already talked about them being born again.
 - He has talked about their faith.
 - He has talked about their love for the brethren.
- Peter is pointing them back to something they already know.
 - They have tasted that the Lord is gracious.
- You know the Lord has been gracious to you.
 - You know He saved you.
 - So keep desiring His word.
- Look at what comes next after our passage.
 - Verse 4 begins talking directly about Christ.
 - The Lord here is most naturally Jesus Christ.
- Peter is telling believers:
 - You have tasted that the Lord is gracious.
 - Keep desiring His word.
 - Keep feeding on it.
 - Keep growing.
- **[STRONG]** You are not growing to get God's grace. You grow because God has already been gracious to you.

CONCLUSION

- Peter gives us three simple things.
- **First, lay aside what needs to go.**
 - Malice.
 - Guile.
 - Hypocrisy.
 - Envy.
 - Evil speaking.
- **Second, desire the word.**
 - Want it like a newborn baby wants milk.
 - Read it.
 - Hear it preached.
 - Learn it.
 - Obey it.

- **Third, grow thereby.**
 - You are not growing so you can finally become saved.
 - Peter is talking to people already born again and telling them to grow.
 - **[QUESTION] What needs to be laid aside?**
 - What has happened to your appetite for the word?
 - Are you growing?
 - **[WARNING] Do not feed your envy and starve your Bible reading.**
 - Do not hold on to hypocrisy and wonder why you are not growing.
 - Do not spend all week speaking evil and then wonder why your Christian life is weak.
 - **[REPEAT] Lay aside what Peter says to lay aside.**
 - **[REPEAT] Desire the word.**
 - **[REPEAT] Grow thereby.**
 - **[SLOW] The Lord is gracious.**
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