

Hungering for the Word of God (1 Pet 2:1-3)

Intro

- ~ Nesquik is a brand of products made by Swiss company Nestlé. In 1948, Nestlé launched a drink mix for chocolate-flavored milk called Nestle Quik in the United States; this was released in Europe during the 1950s as Nesquik Chocolate Powder was introduced in 1948.
- ~ Nesquik chocolate syrup was introduced in 1981. Strawberry was added in 1989. Mixed flavors such as Strawberry Banana and Chocolate Caramel have also been produced.
- ~ We must remember these products as kids
- ~ Nequick made my white milk taste better
- ~ While I like chocolate milk better than white milk when it comes to the word of God, I don't want the word with any substitutes
- ~ The pure straight-forward word of God is what transforms a person's life
- ~ Romans 12:2 "And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God."
- ~ While this verse doesn't mention the word we know we renew our mind with the Word
- ~ The result of this renewing of our mind is we're not conformed to the world but transformed. We prove the word true in our life
- ~ The word is milk for new, young and carnal believers and meat for mature believers
- ~ We generally don't feed meat to infants (although they do in Argentina)
- ~ Newborns live on milk
- ~ Christians live and grow as a result of taking in the word of God
- ~ Wiersbe, "God's Word has life, gives life, and nourishes life"

Text

1 Peter 2:1-3 (NLT)

- 1 So get rid of all evil behavior. Be done with all deceit, hypocrisy, jealousy, and all unkind speech.
- 2 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, 3 now that you have had a taste of the Lord's kindness.

V1 – The Wrong Appetites

- ~ Paul mentions appetites that will produce the wrong outcome
- ~ If we eat the wrong things we may not have an appetite for the wrong things
- ~ Peter warns us of the wrong appetites ruining a healthy appetite
- ~ Laying aside = to cleanse defilements or to put off clothing
- ~ Malice means wickedness in general
- ~ Guile is craftiness and deceit, using devious words and actions to get what we want
- ~ hypocrisies – Acting under a false part. Playing the role of another. Often the cause of ill will is envy
- ~ Envy – Ill will and jealousy. One result of envy is evil speaking
- ~ Evil speaking - conversation that tears the other person down.
- ~ If these attitudes and actions are in our lives, we will lose our appetite for the pure word of God.
- ~ These appetites will hinder optimal spiritual health

V2 – The Right Appetite

- ~ Desire (1971 epipotheo) to yearn, to dote upon, that is, intensely crave possession
- ~ Sincere (adolos) genuine, pure, without deceit or guile. This is the only use of this word in the NT
 - Prov 30:5 Every word of God is pure
- ~ Grow (837 auxano) Grow, enlarge, increase
 - We grow as a result of taking in the word
 - There can be no growth apart from the word
 - The word is the food that helps us to grow spiritually
 - Matt 4:4; Lk 4:4 Jesus said man doesn't live by bread alone but by every word of God
 - The reason we desire the milk of the word is so we can grow

~ Milk = here a reference to the word

- In 1 Cor 3:2 and Heb 5:11-14 it refers to bible teaching at its most basic level needed because the Corinthians were carnal and the Hebrews were sluggish in their spiritual appetite for the word
- Here it refers to hungering for the word as a newborn wants milk
- Milk is a reference to the word in:
 - **1 Cor 3:2**
- The context of v1-4 is Paul speaks about three types of people. Spiritual man, carnal man and the natural man. The Corinthians were carnal and their carnality manifested itself as envy, strife and division
- Bible teaching that is basic as opposed to in depth teaching of the word. Paul fed the Corinthians with milk teaching and not meat because they didn't have the capacity to learn deep bible teaching. In the case of the Corinthians they were carnal
- **Heb 5:11-14**
 - V11 – the Hebrews were dull of hearing = Hebrews 5:11 (AMP)
 - 11 Concerning this we have much to say which is hard to explain, since you have become dull in your [spiritual] hearing and sluggish [even slothful in achieving spiritual insight].
 - V12 – Because of their spiritual sluggishness they were untaught and needed to be taught bible basics because they couldn't handle deep bible teaching
 - V13 – Those that need milk are unskilled in the word of God. That's not a fault of every person who needs milk some may just be a new believer and are learning. But, unfortunately some never grow because they have no appetite for the word or when they hear it they are sluggish in their hearing of the word
 - V14 – Strong meat (deep bible teaching) is for those who have matured and because of their ability to learn the word they're able to discern between good and evil

V3 – The Reason for the Right Appetite

~ God is gracious

~ The KJV reads "if you have tasted the Lord is gracious."

~ Here "if" is the 1st class condition in the Greek which means since it's true

~ Ye have tasted (Aorist tense) More literally, ye tasted. "A taste excites the appetite" (Bengel). Compare long for,

~ Ps 34:8 Taste and see that the Lord is gracious

~ Peter's readers had already tasted God's goodness in their new birth. Greater consumption of His Word would bring greater satisfaction as well as increased spiritual growth" *Constable*

Summary

~ Key idea of our text is hungering for the word so we can grow – but we need to make the word our delight

~ The word is a delight

- Job 23:12 *Neither have I gone back from the commandment of his lips; I have esteemed the words of his mouth more than my necessary food.*
- Ps 1:1-3 (*v2-the blessed man delights in the word*) *Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful. 2 But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night. 3 And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper.*
- Ps 19: 10 (*Referring to the word of God*) *More to be desired are they than gold, yea, than much fine gold: sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb.*
- Ps 119:103 *How sweet are thy words unto my taste! yea, sweeter than honey to my mouth!*
- Ps 119:127 *Therefore I love thy commandments above gold; yea, above fine gold.*

~ The more we spend time in the word can grow spiritually

~ Spiritual growth means we grow more into Christlikeness. Our life begins to mirror the word of God more than it does the world, flesh and the devil (the three enemies of the Christian)

~ We mature through the word

~ Another way of saying growing and maturing is sanctification

~ Jn 17:17 Jesus prayed the Father would sanctify us through truth

Conclusion

How do we desire the word of God/bible?

- 1 We get in it and start reading
- 2 We pray for God to give us a hunger for his word
- 3 We pray for God to open our eyes to behold (Ps 119:18)