

Happy Palm Sunday – Week before Easter – Celebrate Jesus' triumphant entrance Jerusalem

- Instead of preaching on that specifically...we are going to stay in series – 1 Peter 1:22  
One of the things, I believe, we need to increase is our reverence for the Bible  
**St. Augustine:** "When the Holy Scriptures are read, it is God who speaks."
- We can take the Bible for granted because of its so readily available...praise God for  
All of us in here own multiple bibles...we have them on our phones...verses on lock screens  
It hasn't always been that way, and it is not that way in different places on earth
- There was a time when people would travel miles just to hear the Bible spoken
- Still countries where the possession of a Bible or carrying a bible could get you killed  
Junior High Ministry – Nepal – Legal to poses, but illegal to distribute or evangelize
- Here...we buy them by the case and stick them in every third seat...they're everywhere!  
Because so readily available...we have lost some reverence for the Living Word (Walk)

The Bible in your hand is all you need for life in godliness...can lead you to everlasting life

### Big Idea - The Word that gives life is the Word that grows life (Explain)

<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 "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.

'Purify' = Remove contaminants | How do you purify something? **You wash it**

How do we purify our souls? Being washed by blood of Jesus – Avoid sin? Obey the Word

- Peter speaks to "exiles" who are feeling fragility in their lives under the heat of trial
- Reminds their circumstances temporary, they are anchored to something eternal (Word)

We look at how Word of God transforms our temporary lives into a community of lasting love

When it comes to being purified - Mandate – Means – Maintenance – Maturity

1. **The Mandate: Deep Love (1:22):** The goal of our purified souls.

<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

We often think of "purity" as something we do for our own benefit—to be right with God  
But in Peter's letter to the scattered, suffering Christians of the first century...bold claim:

Ultimate evidence of purified soul isn't quiet conscience; it's a loud, active love for others

- Ever wondered if faith is "working,"? Don't look theological library / prayer journal first
- Look at how you treat people...active theology is a discipline of loving others

Peter lays out a clear progression in this verse that leads to love; It's a "cause and effect"

- a. **The Cause:** *Obeying the truth* | Part of the Christian experience is obedience to Word  
A lot of Christians live by 'Ikea Effect' – Skip steps and have extra screws...can't hold weight  
If you don't love discipline...you don't love God...don't love God...no chance of loving others
  - b. **The Result:** *Sincere love of the brethren - philadelphia*—brotherly affection
- Sincerity means "without a mask." – In church we should love people without hiding  
Social face we wear to hide our true feelings – insecurities – personality traits to the world  
**Protection** (Guarding vulnerabilities) | **Belonging** (Fit in) | **Expectation** (Fake Happiness)

I bet most of us love people more often 'behind the mask' than we do with sincerity

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love one another earnestly from a pure heart

- Peter moves from *philadelphia* love to *agape* love —a sacrificial, divine love
- He adds word "Earnestly" which in the original Greek means to "stretch to the limit,"  
Think of a marathon runner in the final mile - Their muscles are taut and extended.  
Sincere love isn't a "feeling" that happens to us...deliberate "stretching" of our capacity
- It means loving the "unlovable" person in the pew until it actually hurts
- Stretching past our comfort zones, our preferences, and our differences to reach them

### Takeaway - Love Earnestly

- a. **Is it sacrificial?** Does it cost you something (time, pride, resources)?
  - b. **Is it consistent?** Does it remain steady even when the other person is difficult?
  - c. **Is it humble?** Does it seek the other's good over your own?
2. **The Means: Durable Promises (1:23–25):** The Word that outlasts grass and flowers.  
<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 "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.

Everything around us fades – I have a 10-year-old computer...that should blow your mind

- Careers end – Bodie weaken – Culture shifts | Things we believe are permanent aren't  
**Peter points us to the only thing on earth that doesn't have an expiration date = Word**  
<sup>23</sup> since you have been born again, not of perishable seed but of imperishable, through the living and abiding word of God;

- **Perishable seed** – That you were born into this world through flesh and blood
- **Imperishable seed** – You were born again into eternity through the sacrifice of Christ  
When you are born imperishable seed...though your flesh may fail...you will live on forever  
"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."

Peter here quotes Isaiah 40 – and he is placing that verse here to make a point

Our lives are fading like the flowers of the field...but the promises of God last forever

God many promises – **Stability** (Gen. 9:16) | **Identity** (Jer.31:3) | **Restoration** (Isa. 61:8)

**Future** – **John 10:28** 'I give them eternal life, and they will never perish'

This is a durable promise from the Word of the Lord to all who have given their lives to Christ

- What Peter is saying...you & everything in this world is going to go away...believe in Jesus  
**Voyager Golden Record – 1977...sent off into space...extraterrestrial life...survive billions  
Sciences way of leaving an eternal mark on the universe...Only one way leave eternal mark**

### Takeaway - Live Biblically

(25b) And this word is the good news that was preached to you.

If you want to see change in your life that is lasting...eternal...commit yourself to the Word

3. **The Maintenance: Discarded Sin (2:1):** Removing the obstacles to growth.

**2** So put away all malice and all deceit and hypocrisy and envy and all slander.

We live in a world obsessed with "detoxing." – Juice | Social-Media | Spring Cleaning  
Understand principle before you can put something good in, you have to get the "junk" out

- In 1 Peter 2:1, the Apostle Peter applies this logic to the soul.
- Just finished explaining we are born again through the living and abiding word of God
- He is calling for a radical removal of toxins that stifle our spiritual growth

Peter lists five specific behaviors that act as "growth inhibitors" in the life of a believer:

- **Malice:** [This is a "root" sin] - A general ill-will or a desire to see someone else suffer
  - Malice isn't a flash of anger...settled anger | [Cut off in traffic – Go home and think](#)
- **Deceit:** Originally = "bait" for fish. Trickery, manipulation, people to get what you want
  - Ever feel like everyone is trying to deceive you? [Sales](#) | [Politicians](#) | [Scammers](#)
- **Hypocrisy:** Pretending to be something you are not, especially in your devotion to God
  - [Sunday / Monday divide](#) | Singing praises to God Sunday...running like devil Monday
- **Envy:** The resentment we feel when someone else succeeds
  - [I have felt envy...when another church has a big new building...I get envious \(Sin\)](#)
- **Slander:** Literally "speaking down" about someone
  - Involves gossip, backbiting, or spreading rumors to lower someone else's reputation
  - [Gossip is a real problem in the world...Four dangerous words 'Have you heard about'](#)

[Look at that list of five and see where you need a detox...a little soul cleaning](#)

**The Key Command:** "Put away" - same verb used for taking off dirty clothes...end of the day  
[These five things = filthy, blood-stained rags no longer fit new person you have are in Christ](#)

**Takeaway = Act Selflessly**

[Replace: Malice with grace - Deceit with sincerity - Hypocrisy with integrity](#)

[Envy with rejoicing - Slander with edification](#)

4. **The Maturity: Desired Sustenance (2:2-3):** Tasting and seeing that the Lord is good.

<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.](#)

I just went and spent a few days with my grandson...he's just a lil guy...he's like 8lbs

- Imagine if he stayed that same size | 23 years old...size of a football...ridiculous

[This is how we view Christians who do not long for pure spiritual milk...forever newborns](#)

a. **Crave Spiritual Nourishment (v. 2)** ["Like newborn infants, long for the pure spiritual milk..."](#)

- Peter uses the image of a newborn baby—intense, desperate craving
  - This is not casual interest - This is a deep, continual longing – [Seen hungry baby?](#)
    - "Long for" means to earnestly desire, even ache for
    - "Pure spiritual milk" refers to the Word of God—the truth that nourishes the soul
- [Just as milk is essential for a baby's growth, God's Word is essential for spiritual growth](#)

b. **Growth into Salvation (v. 2)** ["...that by it you may grow up into salvation."](#)

- Peter is not saying we grow *into being saved*...we grow *in the fullness of our salvation*
  - Salvation is not only something we receive—it is something we mature in
- We grow in holiness | We grow in understanding | We grow in Christlikeness**

[Spiritual growth is not automatic—it is fueled by intake of truth](#)

c. **Taste of God's Goodness (v. 3)** ["...if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good."](#)

- The Christian life begins with a taste—a real experience of the goodness of God.
  - Once you've tasted His grace, forgiveness, and love, nothing else satisfies the same way
- [Went to the cheesecake factory...had a bite of my wife's...what did I want after the taste?](#)

**Takeaway - Pursue maturity**

- Let the Word always be your nourishment as you grow.

[Let it bring you: Conviction & repentance | Knowledge & application | Clarity & comfort](#)

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