

How does God give us a longing for His Word?

1. Remove sins contrary to the redeemed life. 2:1
 - a. We were thoroughly dead in our sins and our lifestyle reflected our nature.
 - b. The redeemed are charged to put off their old self and to put on the new life in Christ.

Five sins - I Peter 2:1

Put off all malice — wish only good for others

Put off deceit - never act toward others in a cunning way

Put off hypocrisy - always seek to be real and authentic

Put off envy - rejoice in the success of others

Put off slander - speak very well of others, always.

2. Take in the nourishment of the redeemed. 2:2-3
 - a. We are desperate for this nourishment. v. 2a
 - b. Our nourishment is the Word of God.
 - c. This nourishment is necessary for our growth. v. 2b
 - d. Our intake of nourishment will continually remind us that the Lord is good. v. 3

Opening question

Do you have a favorite meal at a restaurant that you always choose? What about it makes you crave it?
What keeps you from branching out and ordering something new?

Scripture: I Peter 2:1-3

v. 1 - **Peter exhorts these exiles to "put away all malice, all deceit, and hypocrisy, envy and slander."**

How do these particular sins hinder spiritual growth within the believer?

Which sin stuck out to you the most and why?

v. 2 - **New life cannot grow without the nourishment of the Word. Peter understood this and used powerful imagery to describe the believer as new born, "craving" spiritual milk. How are we to be like "newborn infants?"**

Using Peter's imagery, what should it look like for the Christian to crave God's Word?

v. 3 - **Peter uses the word "pure" to describe our spiritual nourishment from the Word.**

Use the Word study below on "pure" and discuss what role Christian resources have in the believer's life (i.e. books on Christian living, devotions, seminars, workshops, etc.).

Application Questions

Paul's Insights: What can we learn from Paul and his letter to the church of Galatia on standing firm as one redeemed (Gal 5:16-17)?

Word Studies:

"crave/long" – an inborn longing; an eagerness for spiritual development.

"put away" – the images denotes someone flinging off a badly stained or infected garment. Either understanding, because of the tense it demands a definite break with sin; the Christian should remove it entirely.

"pure" – literally "without deceit" is what Peter exhorts the believer to be rid of. The milk upon which Christians are to feed should be "unmixed or pure; not adulterated, or drugged with vain and deceitful philosophy, or any thrust-in human deceits."