

"Long for the Word"

Intro: As we consider today's text, we find that just as a fervent love for the brethren is to characterize the life of the believer (1:22), so too is a _____ for the Word of God.

A. This that Peter penned is a confirming reminder of what the Lord said years earlier as recorded in John 8:31-32, "_____ you abide in My word, _____ you are truly disciples of Mine."

1 Peter 2:1-3

I. Therefore, or _____ you have been _____ through the imperishable, living and abiding Word of God; because you've heard and obeyed responding rightly to the truth of Christ, having your soul purified that you would possess a sincere love for the brethren; and because you are thus commanded to fervently love one another from the heart, _____ the things that oppose such a love!

A. We are to be continually _____ in "putting aside" (laying down, rejecting, _____) those perishable things that run contrary to the imperishable seed (the Word of God) of which we are born.

1. We are to be putting aside _____. Malice refers to wickedness as an evil habit of the mind. It means: to _____ upon another.

2. We are to be putting aside _____. This word originally referred to _____ a trap or hook. Used in this metaphorical sense, it refers to _____ and committing fraud.

3. We are to be putting aside _____. Originally, this word referred to an actor who put on a _____ hiding his true identity while he played a role. This then, refers to the professing Christian who is _____, but not truly a part of God's family.

4. We are to be putting aside _____. Envy is the _____ or selfish pain felt when another does well.

5. We are to be putting aside _____. This refers to _____, back-biting, gossip, speaking _____ to another - it is the defamation of character.

II. Peter not only tells us what we are to be busy laying aside, but what we are to be busy _____ While we are actively putting aside such love crushing sinfulness as malice, guile, hypocrisy, envy and slander, we must, verse 2, "like newborn babes, _____ pure milk of the _____ ..."

A. We are to be like newborn babies in respect to their insatiable _____ for their mother's milk. As those who are born again of the imperishable seed of the living and abiding Word of God we are to long for the pure milk of the living and abiding _____ of God.

1. The verb translated "long for" is in the imperative thus us to earnestly, sincerely, intensely, recurrently _____ the Word of God.

a. As those who are born again of the Word of God, there should be a desire for the Word of God, but whether we sense it or not, we must obey the Word

and with intensity _____ for the Word.

2. The word "pure" means _____ and unspoiled. The Psalmist wrote, "Thy word is very _____, Therefore Thy servant loves it" (Ps 119:140).

a. What we must _____ is the rich, spiritually fattening, calorie laden, wholesome goodness of the of God and we must not tolerate anything less!

b. That we would "... _____ at [His] word, As one who finds _____ spoil." (cf. Ps. 119:162)

B. As we are putting aside malice, guile, hypocrisy, envy, and slander we are to be picking up the Word of God! And why? The pure word of God is the only thing that will replace the ills of such vile impurities. Our minds must be retrained - or to use Biblical language, _____! We are to be putting aside the filthy sin by the of the pure water of the _____. Let us long for His Word just as a deer pants for the water!

III. Peter tells us that as a result of longing for the pure Word of God that we will in respect to _____.

A. The verb for "may grow" is in the passive and literally means " _____." This is the _____ of the Word of God to those who are being saved (1 Cor. 1:18) for it is alive and _____ (Heb. 4:12)! God does not send forth His Word except that it returns successfully all that He sent it out to accomplish (Is. 55:11). Get on a diet of the pure Word of God and it will grow you!

IV. Verse 3 is a first-class conditional clause. If - if you have _____ the kindness of the Lord ("The kindness of the Lord" referring to His saving grace - _____.)

A. The prophet Jeremiah wrote, "Thy words were found and I ate them, And Thy words became for me a joy and the delight of my heart; _____ I have been called by Thy name, O LORD God of hosts." (Jer 15:16) Why did Jeremiah consume the Word and delight in it? Because He _____.

B. So, the question is, _____ tasted the kindness of the Lord? And, a verbal answer is not necessary for if you the _____ the brethren and _____ for the pure Word you bear the distinct _____ of those who truly follow Christ.

Closing: Dear church, our _____ for the brethren cannot be separated from our _____ for the pure Word of God.

And neither can our love for the brethren nor the longing for the Word come _____ we have _____ the salvation of the Lord.

Just as love for the children of God is a necessary mark that identifies us as Christ's, so too is the longing for the Word. These identify us as _____ of the imperishable seed of the living and abiding Word of God.

_____ long for His Word?