

February 25, 2024

The Bridge Bible Fellowship

Pastor Paul S. Brown

1 Peter 2:1-3

“Stand Up & Stand Out”
“The Beauty of Holiness” – Part 4

- I. Foundation: God’s Provision of Salvation (1:1-12)
- II. Exhortation: Our Response to So Great a Salvation (1:13-5:14)
 - A. Sanctification (1:13-2:12) – The Beauty of Holiness
 - 1. Hope (13)
 - 2. Holiness (14-16)
 - 3. Fear / Reverence / Awe (1:17-21)
 - 4. Love (1:22-25)
 - 5. _____ (2:1-3)

So What?

Discussion & Application:

1. Share a time when a brother or sister in Christ sincerely loved you fervently from the heart and how it impacted your life. What sacrifices did they make to love you that way? How did it motivate you to stand up & stand out for Jesus?
2. Peter says that God used His living & enduring word to change you from the inside-out. Read **Psalm 19:7-11** and discuss all the different ways the word of God can improve your life. What other passages of Scripture help us understand the powerful, life-changing nature of God's word?
3. Read **1 Peter 2:1**. Define each of the sins that Peter lists. Give examples of how they are manifest in subtle and in obvious ways.
 - Malice
 - Deceit
 - Hypocrisy
 - Envy
 - Slander
4. John Bunyan, Puritan preacher and author of *Pilgrim's Progress*, wrote the following in the cover of his Bible: "**Either this BOOK will keep you from SIN, or SIN will keep you from this BOOK.**" Peter says we must first "put aside" old sinful habit patterns before we will crave pure spiritual milk. How does sin take away our desire for God's word? Are any of the sins listed above choking out your love for God's word and desire to read / study / apply it? How specifically will you put it aside?
5. **James 1:18-25** is very similar to 1 Peter 1:22-2:3. Compare them and note the similarities. James adds that we must be doers of the word, not merely hearers. What happens if we are hearers only? What practices do you employ to make sure that you do what you learn from God's word? What blessings come to you when you are a doer?
6. Peter uses the analogy of a **baby** longing for milk. What qualities / characteristics of a baby does that bring to your mind? If those qualities / characteristics were true of us spiritually, how would they enhance our desire for God's word and stimulate us to grow spiritually?
7. Note: the word "**pure**" (unadulterated) in 1 Peter 2:2 is the negated form of the word "**deceit**" in v. 1. What does it mean that the word of God is the opposite of deceit? What do the following verses tell us about God's word? How does it help us stand strong when we are being persecuted or are suffering for Christ? Jn. 8:31-32; 17:17; Jer. 15:15-16; Acts 20:32; Rom. 15:4; Eph. 6:10-17; 2 Tim. 3:16-17.
8. What are your **best practices** for consistent intake of God's word that produces genuine spiritual growth? Be specific as to time, location, frequency, methods, etc. How specifically do you remember / retain what you read throughout the day?
9. **3 Month / 90-Day Challenge!** Pastor Paul is challenging you to join him in reading through the whole Bible in 90 days. Read every verse from Genesis 1:1 through Revelation 22:21 between March 1st and May 31st (technically 92 days). An average of 13 chapters per day (about 30-60 minutes per day – say no to media). There are numerous guides online that you can use. Here is the one Pastor Paul will use: <https://www.thebrooknetwork.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/12/BibleIn90Days.pdf>
10. **Memorize 1 Peter 2:1-3.** Crave pure spiritual milk and grow by it.