

The 4th Sunday of Easter ~ Sunday, May 12, 2019

“A Living Hope: Desiring God’s Word”

1 Peter 1:23-2:3

“You have been born anew, not of perishable but of imperishable seed, through the living and enduring word of God.” (1 Peter 1:23)

“For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.” (Hebrews 4:12)

The Bible is a tool for change; and the ultimate goal of reading, studying, and meditating on it is _____: living it out in our daily lives and allowing it to change and _____ what we think, say, and do.

Love for, and _____ in, God’s Word is always a mark of those who are truly _____.

“If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples; and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.” (John 8:31-32)

Psalms 1 tells us that if a godly person’s delight is in the law of the Lord, they should _____ on it day and night.

Do I have the same kind of desire for God’s Word?

Do I have the same kind of commitment to read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest it as spiritual food?

If we’re not reading the Bible on a regular basis, we won’t know the _____ and we won’t _____ in the Truth. There’s a direct correlation between reading the Bible and spiritual _____.

_____ isn’t good enough, and we can’t please and honour the Lord if we’re not _____ on His Word on a daily basis.

“Therefore, rid yourselves of all malice, and all guile, insincerity, envy, and all slander. Like newborn infants, long for the pure, spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow into salvation—if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.” (2:1-3)

By using the word ‘therefore,’ he’s encouraging his readers to remember their life _____—to remember the _____ power of God’s Word in their lives as a basis for their ongoing commitment to Scripture as a _____ for spiritual growth.

“And now, just as you accepted Christ Jesus as your Lord, you must continue to follow him. Let your roots grow down into him, and let your lives be built on him. Then your faith will grow strong in the truth you were taught, and you will overflow with thankfulness.” (Colossians 2:6-7)

Birth must be followed by _____; and just as a baby requires milk in order to be nourished and to grow, we need the milk of God’s _____ in order to be nourished spiritually and to grow in Christ.

GROWING IN OUR DESIRE FOR GOD’S WORD

#1. _____.

“Therefore, rid yourselves of all malice, and all guile, insincerity, envy, and all slander.” (1 Peter 2:1)

Clinging to our sins drives us in the opposite direction from the truth that _____ sin and demands _____; and so seeking to eliminate sin is a prerequisite to sustaining the desire for God’s Word.

Rid yourselves = *apothemenoi* =

“But now you must get rid of all such things—anger, wrath, malice, slander, and abusive language from your mouth. Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have stripped off the old self with its practices.” (Colossians in 3:8-9)

Exchanging clothes symbolized the _____ reality of laying aside the old life and putting on the new.

“You were taught to put away your former way of life, your old self, corrupt and deluded by its lusts, and to be renewed in the spirit of your minds, and to clothe yourselves with the new self, created according to the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness.” (Ephesians 4:22-24)

The only way to put aside the things of our former life is _____.

True repentance is about so much more than just saying sorry—it involves putting off evil—a complete _____ away from sin and turning to God. The new life in Christ calls for _____ repentance.

“...lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us...” (Hebrews 2:1-2)

FIVE THINGS THAT WE NEED TO PUT ASIDE

• _____ = *kakia* =

It is wicked ill-will and a desire to _____ someone with words or deeds.

- _____ = *dolos* =
It's the desire to gain some _____ or preserve some position by being deliberately _____ and deceiving others.
- _____ = *hypokrisis* = spiritual _____ and pretence.
It's a desire to hide what really is; or any behaviour that's not _____ or consistent with what one professes to _____.
- _____ = *phthonos* = jealous _____ and resentful discontent at another person's good.
- _____ = *katalalia* = a word designed to _____ like whispers, murmurs, or tattles behind someone's back. It means =

Sin is always _____, and the source of all 5 of these are _____.

Right at the beginning—from the time he tempted Adam and Eve in the garden—Satan has used lies, _____, and _____ to keep us from becoming everything that God has created us to be. However, If we're going to enjoy the life of _____ that God has for us, we need to cast off all evil—we need to replace the lies with God's _____.

What might you need to eliminate or cast off ?
What lies have you believed?

#2. _____.

“Like newborn infants, long for the pure, spiritual milk...” (1 Peter 2:2)

long for = *epipotheo* =

“I have treasured the words of his mouth more than my necessary food.” (Job 23:12)

pure = *adolos* =

Anytime sin is _____ and the cross is _____, God will not be _____.

“It is written, ‘One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.’” (Matthew 4:4)

How hungry are you for God's Word?
What spiritual food are you filling yourself with?

#3. _____.

“so that by it you may grow in respect to salvation...” (1 Peter 2:2)

The same Word that _____ us when we were saved is essential for our spiritual _____. In fact, the whole reason that we're to long for, and feed on, spiritual milk is so that we can grow in respect to _____.

Submitting ourselves to His Word will grow us into fuller _____ of the salvation that's been given to us.

“Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence, but much more now in my absence, continue to work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.” (Philippians 2:12-13)

Christians can be spiritually _____ and unable to enjoy the full _____ of salvation

“All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching and rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that we may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.” (2 Timothy 3:16)

The Bible isn't just _____ by God, it's *theo-pneustos*, or God _____. It can teach us what's truly _____ in life; it can show us the things in our lives that need to _____; it can correct and _____ us when we're wrong and teach us how to live _____ side up; it can turn us from infants into _____ believers. The Word is spiritual _____, and without it we'll _____ spiritually.

If you were to chart your spiritual growth, would it show steady progress?
What can you do today to grow more like Jesus?

#4. _____.

“...if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.” (1 Peter 2:3)

“O taste and see that the Lord is good.” (Psalm 34:8)

We should regularly and _____ reflect on the blessings of our salvation, remembering the countless times God has answered our prayers and showed us His _____; and all the ways that He's touched our lives with His kindness and _____.

“Praise the Lord! O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his steadfast love endures forever.” (Psalm 106:1)

Those who don't stop to count their _____—who don't taste and see that the Lord is good—rarely develop much of a _____ for His Word. And if we stop feeding on the Word, we stop _____.

Are you aware of the many ways that God has blessed you in your life?
How thankful are you?