

# **GROWING UP into Salvation:** No EXCUSES. No SHORTCUTS.

1 Peter 2:1-3

## Intro: Art of Being Defensive/Rationalizing:

"You can't cure a visual headache with verbal aspirin."

- Irving Haynes; R.I.S.D Instructor, 1984

For we ARE His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we SHOULD walk in them. - Eph. 2:10

**Q?** Is my life a walking masterpiece or a walking headache?

### **I. Example of Divine Repetition:** (Art principle #3: Repeat with variation)

1 Ptr. 1:22-25

Moral Imperatives –

1 Ptr. 2:1-3

- v. 22 Having purified your souls by your <u>obedience</u> to the truth for a sincere, brotherly love, <u>love one another</u> earnestly from a pure heart.
- v. 1 So <u>put away</u> all malice and all deceit and hypocrisy and envy and all slander.
- Redemptive Indicatives -
- v. 23a since you have been born again,
- v. 3 if indeed you have <u>tasted</u> that the Lord is good.
- Causation –
- v. 23b not of perishable seed but of
  - 25 imperishable, through the living and abiding word of God; ... but the word of the Lord remains forever. And this word is the good news that was preached to you.
- v. 2 Like newborn infants, long for the pure <u>spiritual milk</u>, that by it you may grow up into salvation –

"Moral IMPERATIVES always flow out of the REDEMPTIVE indicative." - C. Abraham Fritz

We DO, because of Jesus has DONE! (Col. 1:29, Phil. 2:12b -13)

# II. Benefit of Driving in Reverse:

(v. 3) "If..." conditional statement: if/then; if v. 3 is true, then v. 1-2 must also apply. (If not...)

"tasted" = to eat, consume, experience, partake of

Same word in Heb. 6:4-8, yet seems like a completely different meaning. (1 Jn. 2:19-20)

"good" = pleasant, easy to bear, kind, gracious (Matt. 11:30, Lk. 6:35)

Peter ref. Ps. 34:8; 1 of 20 verses describing what we have if we've tasted the Lord is good.

**Q?** Have you personally experienced gracious, saving work of Jesus in your life? If not, then 16 & 21 are the only verses in Psalm 34 which apply to you. (2 Cor. 5:16-21)

- (v. 2) "As..." like/as = indicating a simile, draws a comparison between subjects
  - Q? How do we reconcile this verse with 1 Cor. 3:1 and Heb. 5:13?

Both Paul and the writer of Heb. use *child/milk* comparison to describe one's <u>maturity</u> (or lack of it) while Peter uses the same objects to describe the <u>desiring/longing</u>. (Ps. 42:1-2)

**Q?** What if I have no desire? Answer: Everyone desires something. We were wired to "want". spiritual milk = logikos; rational genuine, true, logical or reasonable. (Rom 12:1)

**Q?** What if I'm not longing for the spiritual milk of the word?

WARNING: The answer is not TRY HARDER; be more disciplined, read your Bible more, etc. But something WAY BETTER: Jn. 11:28-30 Come... and rest.

that by it = causing agent

lit. Grk = it grows you up

into salvation = sōtēria: to rescue from danger, deliver, restoration

**Q?** I thought I was already saved? Is salvation a onetime event or an ongoing process?

(soteriology = doctrine of salvation) (saved from sin's...)

(v. 1) **"So..."** i.e. therefore, since or because 1 Ptr. 1:22-25 (and 2:3) is true...

Put away = get rid of, lay aside, stop, cease (Heb. 12:1)

List of 5:

"...all malice" = hatred, wickedness, evil, trouble

"...all deceit" = dishonesty, falsehood, trickery/stealth

"...hypocrisy" = (plural) to pretend/act, "two-faced"

"...envy" = (plural) jealousy

"...all slander" = to speak against, speak evil of

- **Q?** Why only 5? Why these specific 5? Answer: 1st century Grk. style; list of 5 (*minor points*) followed by 1 (*major point*) which summarized the list of 5. (e.g. Col. 3:5)
- Q? So where's the summary? Answer: Peter already stated it 1:22 "...love one another".

These 5 are listed because each of these sins are a direct violation of *sincere brotherly love*. There are a.) idiosyncratic sins (i.e. *deserted island* sins) or b.) collective sins (relational sins).

#### III. Skill of a Determined Redeemer:

God saved us to make us like His Son. (Rom. 8:29)

Q? Are we cooperating with or resisting in His sanctifying work to make us His masterpiece?

God's Chisel

I no longer need EXCUSES or SHORT-CUTS to be the masterpiece God has already created me to be.

All I need is Jesus to become more – and me less. (Jn. 3:30)