

THAT YE MAY GROW THEREBY

1 PETER 2

Text: 1 Peter 2:2

1 Peter 2:2

² As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby:

Introduction:

Again as Peter is attempting to fulfill the command of the Lord to “Strengthen Thy Brethern” he first reminded them as Christians of the lively hope that they have.

He now begins to speak to them about their growth. Each Christian should consistently be growing in their walk with the Lord.

Becoming like Christ is a long, slow process of growth.

There is no growth without change, no change without fear or loss and no loss without pain.

How do we bring glory to God? The Bible's short answer is: by growing more and more like Jesus Christ.

Simon tell us in the text if we are to grow there are some things to put Aside, Put Inside, and Prove.

Notice:

1. GROWTH INCLUDES SOME THINGS TO PUT ASIDE (VS. 1)

1 Peter 2:1

¹ Wherefore laying aside all malice, and all guile, and hypocrisies, and envies, and all evil speakings,

Note the things that must be put aside if we are going to grow as we should as a Christian.

A. Malice (vs. 1)

The word malice means evil, naughtiness, trouble, or wickedness.

Remember these that Peter is trying to help have been separated from friends and families.

He referred to them as the strangers that were scattered.

1 Peter 1:1

¹ Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, to the strangers scattered throughout Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia,

They found themselves under extreme pressure, and heavy burdens through manifold temptations.

1 Peter 1:6

⁶ Wherein ye greatly rejoice, though now for a season, if need be, ye are in heaviness through manifold temptations:

So it would have been easy and so would even say would be justified to react with malice toward those who had mistreated them.

Peter instructs them that if they are going to grow as they should then they must put away malice.

Note what Paul said to Titus:

Titus 3:3

³ For we ourselves also were sometimes foolish, disobedient, deceived, serving divers lusts and pleasures, living in malice and envy, hateful, *and* hating one another.

Notice they also need to put aside:

B. Guile (vs. 1)

1 Peter 2:1

¹ Wherefore laying aside all malice, and all guile, and hypocrisies, and envies, and all evil speakings,

Guile means to use deceit or trickery; to catch with bait.

Illustration: Fisherman baits a hook in an effort to deceive a fish to bite the bait hooking itself.

Not only must malice and guile be put aside if we are going to grow as we must also put aside:

C. Hypocrisy (vs.1)

1 Peter 2:1

¹ Wherefore laying aside all malice, and all guile, and hypocrisies, and envies, and all evil speakings,

Acting under a false pretense.

Many today are not in church because of what they perceive to be hypocrisy.

Not only must malice, guile and hypocrisy be put aside if we are going to grow as we should but we must also put aside:

D. Envy (vs. 1)

1 Peter 2:1

¹ Wherefore laying aside all malice, and all guile, and hypocrisies, and envies, and all evil speakings,

Envy means to be or become jealous.

Illustration:

F. B. Meyer was pastor of Christ's Church in London at the same time that G. Campbell Morgan was pastor of Westminster Chapel and Charles H. Spurgeon was

pastor of the Metropolitan Chapel. Both Morgan and Spurgeon often had much larger audiences than did Meyer.

Troubled by envy, Meyer confessed that not until he began praying for his colleagues did he have peace of heart. "When I prayed for their success," said Meyer, "the result was that God filled their churches so full that the overflow filled mine, and it has been full since."

Not only must malice, guile, hypocrisy and envy be put aside if we are going to grow as we should but we must also put aside:

E. Evil Speaking (vs. 1)

1 Peter 2:1

¹ Wherefore laying aside all malice, and all guile, and hypocrisies, and envies, and all evil speakings,

This word means to defame, to backbite or slander.

We must constantly seek to lay aside the characteristics of the old nature.

Notice not only is there some things that must be laid aside if we are going to grow as we should but also note:

2. GROWTH INCLUDES SOME THINGS TO PUT INSIDE (VS. 2)

1 Peter 2:2

² As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby:

Notice:

A. The Desire for Growth

Do you have a desire to grow as a Christian?

B. The Door for Growth

The Word of God

The Word of God is our:

- Source of Spiritual Food

1 Peter 2:2

² As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby:

Matthew 4:4

⁴ But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.

1 Corinthians 3:2

² I have fed you with milk, and not with meat: for hitherto ye were not able *to bear it*, neither yet now are ye able.

Hebrews 5:12-13

¹² For when for the time ye ought to be teachers, ye have need that one teach you again which *be* the first principles of the oracles of God; and are become such as have need of milk, and not of strong meat. ¹³ For every one that useth milk *is* unskilful in the word of righteousness: for he is a babe.

Psalms 19:10

¹⁰ More to be desired *are they* than gold, yea, than much fine gold: sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb.

Jeremiah 15:16

¹⁶ Thy words were found, and I did eat them; and thy word was unto me the joy and rejoicing of mine heart: for I am called by thy name, O LORD God of hosts.

- Spiritual Weapon

Hebrews 4:12

¹² For the word of God *is* quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and *is* a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

Ephesians 6:17

¹⁷ And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God:

- Keeps Us From Sin

Psalms 119:11

¹¹ Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee.

- Gives Direction and Lights Our Path

Psalms 119:105

¹⁰⁵ Thy word *is* a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.

Is Profitable For Doctrine (What is right), Reproof (What is not right), Correction (How to get what's wrong right), Instruction (How to keep things right).

Notice not only is there some things that must be laid aside, and things that must be put inside if we are going to grow as we should but also note:

3. GROWTH INCUDES SOME THINGS TO PROVE (VS. 3)

1 Peter 2:3

³ If so be ye have tasted that the Lord *is* gracious.

A taste excites the appetite.

What are some things that we must prove:

A. Prove That You Have Tasted (vs. 3a)

B. Prove That You Have Trusted (vs. 3b)

Illustration:

One Sunday on their way home from church, a little girl turned to her mother and said, "Mommy, the

preacher's sermon this morning confused me. The mother said, "Oh? Why is that?" The little girl replied, "Well, he said that God is bigger than we are. Is that true?" The mother replied, "Yes, that's true, honey." "And he also said that God lives in us? Is that true Mommy?" Again the mother replied, "Yes." "Well," said the little girl, "if God is bigger than us and he lives in us, wouldn't He show through?"

The question we should consider – Is the Lord showing in our lives?

If we are growing there will be proof.

Close:

If we are going to grow as we should we must Lay Aside So Things, Put Inside the Word of God, and this will result in Proof of Our Growth.

