

DEVELOPING YOUR SPIRITUAL APPETITE

⇒ **Text:** **1 Peter 2:1-2**

⇒ **Intro:**

- Man is a complex creature.
- Many appetites control him.
 - **Illustration:**
 - Desire for food
 - Desire for sex
 - Desire for knowledge
 - Desire for money, material things
- In fact, many lives are not much more than a series of events, all strung together, during which we seek to satisfy our appetites.
 - Unfortunately, our appetites are often purely fleshly in nature and in the drive to satisfy our flesh.
 - For example -Getting that new car, buying that new thing that we just can't live without.
 - We tend to neglect to satisfy the most important appetite of all, the spiritual appetite.
- This morning, I want to try and help you by preaching for a few minutes about developing your spiritual appetite.
 - Notice what God has to say about that matter.

⇒ **I. A PLAN**

- **V. 2 – “...that ye may grow thereby”**

- ⇒ A. God’s plan for you and me is that we grow in Him
 - **2 Pet. 3:18, “But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ....”**
 - Growth is a natural by-product of birth.
 - Just like physically growth is expected after physical birth so is spiritual growth expected after a person is born-again of the Spirit..
- ⇒ B. How unnatural it would be for a child not to grow.
- ⇒ C. Sadly, many Christians are still spiritually in the cradle.
 - That is what the Apostle Paul basically was telling the believers at Corinth.
 - **See 1 Cor. 3:1-3.**
- ⇒ D. God’s perfect will is that you grow so that you can reproduce and help others to grow in the Lord.
 - **Jesus’ commands us - See Matt. 28:19-20**
 - In his letter to the Hebrews the Apostle Paul tells them that they should be at the point in their spiritual growth that they should be able to teach others.
 - However, they had not grown spiritually and still needed to be taught.
 - **See Heb. 5:12-13.**
- ⇒ **II. A PROVISION**
 - **V. 2 – “the word”**
- ⇒ A. God has given us all that we need to grow in Him!
 - **1. His Word To Feed Us –**

- **Matt. 4:4** – Jesus said, “...**It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.**”
- **Psalm 119:103** – The Psalmist wrote – “**How sweet are thy words unto my taste! yea, sweeter than honey to my mouth!**”
- Job declared in **Job 23:12**, “**Neither have I gone back from the commandment of his lips; I have esteemed the words of his mouth more than my necessary food.**”
- o The Bible contains all essential vitamins and necessary nutrients required for healthy spiritual growth and maturity.
- o The Word will give you - Strong back, good feet, good hands, strong stomach, eyes, ears, tongue, heart, mind.
- o **2. His Spirit To Lead Us** –
 - **See John 16:13-15**
 - The Bible is the only Book that comes with the author!
- ⇒ B. Don't take the Bible (**AV1611 KJB**) for granted, it is the Word of God.
 - o **2 Tim. 3:16** – “**All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:**”
- ⇒ C. It is easy to despise the Bible! - **By:**
 - o **1. Not Reading It** –
 - **Isa. 34:16**, instructs us to “**Seek ye out of the book of the LORD**”

- **Jesus said in John 5:39, “Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me.”**

⇒ Another way of despising the Bible is **By**

o **2. Not Hearing It** –

- **We know that according to Romans 10:17, that is how faith comes by hearing the Word of God.**
- Faith for both salvation and spiritual growth.

⇒ Another way of despising the Bible is **By**

o **3. Not Doing It** –

- **James 1:22-25**, tells us we do this when we hear what the Word of God has to say and don't do it..
- James likens it to looking in a mirror and seeing what needs to be changed and walking away and not doing anything about it.

⇒ D. If you ever grow in the Lord, it will only be because you have had a steady diet of the Word of God!

⇒ **III. A PROBLEM**

o **V. 1 – “Wherefore laying aside all malice, and all guile, and hypocrisies, and envies, all evil speakings,”**

⇒ A. We are warned here to avoid certain activities.

o Why?

- Sin will steal your appetite for God's Word!

⇒ B. **Illustration:**

- o It is like with children!

- Snacks ruin their meals.
 - o **Illustration:**
 - You see sin will keep you from the Bible and the Bible will keep you from sin!
 - o **Illustration:**
 - You like the Prodigal
 - You can either eat from the hog trough, or the Father's table - you have to decide!
 - Either one will rob your appetite for the other!
 - o **Illustration:**
 - You are what you eat
 - There are only two kinds of spiritual food - Angels and Devils
 - What you feed on will be what you are and what you want!
- ⇒ C. God is not a spoil sport!
- o He is not out to steal your fun.
 - He just knows how we are!
 - He knows that if we live in sin, we will have no appetite for His Word or for the things of the Spirit!
 - He knows you will grow weak and be useless to Him
 - o That is why we are instructed in His Word
 - **Hebrews 12:1-2**
- ⇒ **IV. A PROCEDURE**
- o **V. 2 – “As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word,...”**

⇒ **A. Desire** –

○ **Illustration:**

- A Newborn –
 - When a baby is hungry, everyone knows about it!
 - It wants and needs one thing, and it will not stop crying until it gets it!
 - What’s wrong with it?
 - Nothing, it’s just hungry and wants what it knows will fill the need!
- Christians ought to have this same desire for the Word of God –
 - The Psalmist wrote in **Psalm 119:27** – **“Make me to understand the way of thy precepts: so shall I talk of thy wondrous works.”**

⇒ **B. A Description** –

- What is the description or object of that desire?
 - **V. 2 – “sincere milk of the word”**
 - The word “Sincere” here means Pure!
- We ought to accept nothing less than the real thing!
 - Not diluted, candy-coated, or spray painted, but the pure stuff.
- Sometimes it tastes bad going down, but it will be good when it gets inside of you – **Amen!!!**
- The pure Word will grow you!
 - God’s pure word contains both bitter and sweet but everything the child of God needs to grow spiritually.

- o Of course the pure, inspired, inerrant, preserved word of God is found today in the AV1611, King James Bible.

- o My friend, Ask God to feed you!

⇒ **C. A Demand** –

- o A baby's cry is simply a demand for satisfaction.

- o The Christian ought to be discriminating!

- Stand for nothing less than the pure, vitamin fortified Word of the Living God!

- o Many are trying to live off a light menu!

- Radio and Television preachers.
- Devotional Books and Booklets.

- o Christians spend more time reading books about the Bible instead of the Bible itself.

- o If you are going to grow, you will have to get meat into your soul and that comes only from the Word of God!

⇒ **D. God has spread His table and loaded it down with the best things He Possesses.**

- o He has left them there for us and they are free for the taking.

- o Your duty is to feed there!

- o Where you feed will determine what you grow into!

⇒ **Conclusion:**

- o What satisfies you?

- Do you feel more satisfied after a good movie or a good sermon?

- Do you know more about your favorite star, (Movie, TV, Sports, etc.), or about God's book?
 - If you needed direction in life, would you turn to Oprah, Sally Jessie, Jerry, Maurie, or to the Word of God?
 - And, finally, do you feel that you are growing in the Lord?
 - I encourage you to develop your spiritual appetite.
 - Get hungry for the things of God, there is plenty for all and God allows seconds, thirds, etc.
- o You come if He has called you!