

1 Peter 1v22-2v3: The link between our hope and our holiness (3)

²² Now that you have purified yourselves by obeying the truth so that you have sincere love for each other, love one another deeply, from the heart.^[b] ²³ For you have been born again, not of perishable seed, but of imperishable, through the living and enduring word of God. ²⁴ For,

“All people are like grass,
and all their glory is like the flowers of the field;

the grass withers and the flowers fall,

²⁵ but the word of the Lord endures forever.”^[c]

And this is the word that was preached to you.

2 Therefore, rid yourselves of all malice and all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and slander of every kind. ² Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation, ³ now that you have tasted that the Lord is good

In 1v3 Peter began by reminding us that all Christians have been born again into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. Here he says, 1v23, we have been born again through the living and enduring word of God. Its vital for us to see the link if we are to grow up and stop being spiritual toddlers, always unsteady on our feet and constantly making a mess of things.

Peter says in 1v25 that the word that was preached to these Christians, the gospel message about Christ’s death and resurrection, is the means by which God has given them new birth. But the gospel message of salvation through Christ is not only how God starts us off in the Christian life, it is how God grows us up. Like newborn babies, therefore, having tasted how good God is, we should keep coming back to feed on God’s word, our pure spiritual milk. As God gives us new birth by his word, so it is by his same word he will grow us up.

And as God grows us up, by his living and enduring word, so we realise more of the reality of the brevity of our lives in this world (v24-25), and the wonder of the eternal life that we have begun. And so we begin to change in what we seek to get out of our lives in this so brief world. Rather than seeking to serve ourselves and our own desires, God changes us so that we want to seek the good of others – we learn to love one another deeply (v22), as God has loved us. We learn that when we treat others with malice or envy (2v1) we’re behaving like a toddler having a tantrum because a sibling has been given something we wanted!

Prayer:

Lord God, you have given me new birth, I thank you. I want to grow up. I want to change in the way that I treat others, the way I use my brief time in this world so that I would show

Daily Devotions – 15.05.2020

others more of your grace and goodness. Please keep me growing by your life-giving, life-transforming word.

Amen