

# The Christian Life

Lesson 10: 1 Peter 2:2-3; 2 Peter 3:18; 1 Corinthians 3:1-4;

Ephesians 4:17-24

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# Review study

- The Bible
- The Godhead
- Creation
- Salvation
- The Christian Life
- The Christians Three Enemies
- The Church
- The Last Things

# Outline

- Doctrine
- Practice

## 1 Peter 2:2-3

<sup>2</sup>like newborn babies, long for the pure milk of the word, so that by it you may grow in respect to salvation, <sup>3</sup>if you have tasted the kindness of the Lord.

- Picture of mature growth
- We are commanded to desire milk
- God causes us to grow
- We need to grow because we realize God's kindness to us

## 2 Peter 3:18

<sup>18</sup>but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him *be* the glory, both now and to the day of eternity. Amen.

- We are commanded to grow
- Areas of growth
  - In the grace of our Lord
  - In the knowledge of our Lord
- Growth should never stop

## 1 Corinthians 3:1-4

<sup>1</sup>And I, brethren, could not speak to you as to spiritual men, but as to men of flesh, as to infants in Christ.

<sup>2</sup>I gave you milk to drink, not solid food; for you were not yet able *to receive it*. Indeed, even now you are not yet able, <sup>3</sup>for you are still fleshly. For since there is jealousy and strife among you, are you not fleshly, and are you not walking like mere men? <sup>4</sup>For when one says, "I am of Paul," and another, "I am of Apollos," are you not *mere* men?

- Picture of immaturity
- Flesh ≠ Spirit
- Milk ≠ solid food
- Men ≠ Christians
- The fleshly are not ready for solid food

## Ephesians 4:17-19

<sup>17</sup>So this I say, and affirm together with the Lord, that you walk no longer just as the Gentiles also walk, in the futility of their mind, <sup>18</sup>being darkened in their understanding, excluded from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the hardness of their heart; <sup>19</sup>and they, having become callous, have given themselves over to sensuality for the practice of every kind of impurity with greediness.

- Christians are to differ from the world
- The walk of unbelievers
  - Mentally
    - Futile
    - Darkened
  - Physically
    - Callous
    - Given over to sensuality
- They are excluded from the life of God

## Ephesians 4:20-24

<sup>20</sup>But you did not learn Christ in this way, <sup>21</sup>if indeed you have heard Him and have been taught in Him, just as truth is in Jesus, <sup>22</sup>that, in reference to your former manner of life, you **lay aside** the **old self**, which is being corrupted in accordance with the lusts of deceit, <sup>23</sup>and that you **be renewed** in the spirit of your mind, <sup>24</sup>and **put on** the **new self**, which in *the likeness of* God has been created in righteousness and holiness of the truth.

- **Lay aside**
  - Old self
  - Being corrupted
- **Be renewed**
- **Put on**
  - New self
  - Created in
    - Righteousness
    - Holiness of the truth

# Grow

- Bible reading
  - About 15 minutes a day is needed to read the Bible in a year
  - Read large portions to get a better overview
  - Read smaller portions to meditate on
- Memorization
- The Holy Spirit
  - Our Teacher
  - We are to be filled with the Spirit and walk by the Spirit
  - We are not to grieve the Spirit

# Grow

- Prayer
  - Acknowledgement of our dependence
  - We are to pray continually
  - Types of prayer
    1. worship – adoring the Trinity
    2. praise/thanksgiving – thanking God for physical and spiritual blessings
    3. confession – seeking forgiveness and cleansing from sin
    4. intercession – praying for others
    5. petition – praying for our own needs

# Prayers from the epistles

- Romans 1:8-12
- 1 Corinthians 1:4-9
- Ephesians 1:15-19
- Ephesians 3:14-21
- Philippians 1:3-11
- Colossians 1:9-14
- Colossians 4:12
- 1 Thessalonians 1:2-3
- 1 Thessalonians 3:11-13
- 1 Thessalonians 5:23-24
- 2 Thessalonians 2:16-17
- 2 Thessalonians 1:11-12
- Philemon 4-7
- Hebrews 13:20-21
- 1 Peter 5:10

# Grow

- Fellowship
  - We are the body of Christ
  - Our spiritual gifts are to be used together
- Service to the saints
  - God can use us to bring blessing to others
    - Physical
    - Spiritual
  - Deeply love all believers
- Mortification
  - Actively put sin to death

# Summary

- Desire spiritual growth
- We are commanded to grow
- We are no longer to walk as unbelievers
- Put off the old self
- Put on the new self
- We are to be renewed in the spirit of our minds