

The Growth Of A Christian

TEXT: 1 Peter 1:22 - 2:2

INTRODUCTION:

- A. THE FIGURE - BEGOTTEN AGAIN, BORN OF WATER & SPIRIT.
- B. THIS PRODUCES "BABES IN CHRIST" WHO LONG FOR MILK (**1 Peter 2:2**).
- C. WHAT ALL DOES IT TAKE FOR US TO GROW AND BE HEALTHY? THE IS A PARALLEL BETWEEN THE SPIRITUAL AND THE PHYSICAL.

I. BABIES EAT - SPIRITUAL MILK WITHOUT GUILF.

- A. WHAT IS SPIRITUAL MILK? **kjv** => "SINCERE MILK **OF THE WORD**."
 - 1. A complete diet (**2 Timothy 3:16-17**).
 - 2. Life-giving (**2 Timothy 1:10**).
- B. THE MILK? FIRST PRINCIPLES (**Hebrews 5:12-13; 6:1-2**).
 - 1. Can't live forever on milk, must have solid food (**Hebrews 5:12--6:3**).
 - 2. Ulcerous carnality sometimes calls for "baby-food" (**1 Corinthians 3:1-3**).
- C. THE MILK MUST BE WITHOUT GUILF - PURE.
 - 1. **kjv** => "**sincere** milk of the word."
 - 2. Greek, *adolos*, "pure, unadulterated" (**Vine**).
 - 3. Contains no error (**1 Corinthians 4:6; 2 John 9; Acts 20:29-30; 2 Timothy 4:3-4**).

II. BABIES ELIMINATE POISON - WE ELIMINATE SIN.

- A. "PUT AWAY" PASSAGES (**1 Peter 2:1; James 1:21-22; Colossians 3:5-10**).
- B. WE MUST PURGE OURSELVES TO BE FIT (**2 Timothy 2:19-22**).
- C. POISONS CAN DISTRACT (**Hebrews 12:1**).
- D. POISON EVENTUALLY KILLS (**Ephesians 5:3-6**).

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III. BABIES MUST EXERCISE - WE MUST WORK (1 Timothy 4:7-8).

- A. VERY YOUNG CHILDREN ARE EAGER TO WORK (Titus 3:1).
- B. WE EXERCISE TO DISCERN GOOD AND EVIL (Hebrews 5:14).
- C. WE EXERCISE TO MAINTAIN PURITY OF LIFE (1 Timothy 4:7).
- D. WE EXERCISE TO TEACH OTHERS (Hebrews 5:12, 14; 2 Timothy 2:15).
- E. **Philippians 2:12-16**. GOD WORKS THROUGH US.

IV. BABIES GET SICK - SO DO WE.

- A. BAD DIET - FAILURE TO ELIMINATE - LACK OF EXERCISE.
- B. GERMS (1 Corinthians 15:33; Ephesians 5:11; 2 Corinthians 6:17-7:1).
- C. ONE CAN BE SICK AND NOT KNOW IT (Revelation 3:17-19).
- D. NEED FOR INTROSPECTION (2 Corinthians 13:5).
 - 1. The word is the standard (James 1:22-25).
 - 2. We can know if we are well, and we can get well (1 John 2:1-6).

CONCLUSION:

- A. HAVE YOU BEEN BORN AGAIN?
- B. ARE YOU GROWING AS YOU SHOULD?
- C. IS THERE SPIRITUAL ILLNESS?