



January 15/16, 2011

1 Peter 2 - 3

*"How To Live Until Jesus Comes" Part 2*

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Have you ever tasted something and soon after developed an appetite for more? At one time or another everyone has had this experience. The Lay's Potato Chip commercial - "I bet you can't eat just one" - says it all. It's the same with ice cream, donuts, chocolate, and the list goes on and on. It's the same way with the Lord. Once we taste of the Lord<sup>1</sup> we want more of him. In 1 Peter 2:3, Peter says the same thing when he writes to encourage Believers *"now that [they] have tasted that the Lord is good."*

In this study we're going to learn two new ways to live until Jesus comes: by growing spiritually and submitting to authority.

### Grow Spiritually

#### 1. The Motivation

- a. Peter uses the example of a baby craving milk. The more milk the baby craves milk, the more the baby drinks, and the more the baby drinks, the more the baby grows.
- b. It's the same way when we crave spiritual things and taste and see that the Lord is good, that we will grow spiritually.
- c. It's a natural motivator because the more we see that the Lord is good, the more we're drawn to him.
- d. The more we feed upon the Lord, so to speak, the hungrier we'll be for him, and conversely, the more we feed our sinful nature, the hungrier we'll be for the things that satisfy the flesh.

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<sup>1</sup> [Psalm 34:8](#) - *"Taste and see that the LORD is good; blessed is the one who takes refuge in him."*

## 2. The Instruction – God’s Word

- a. Peter writes that it was because the Word of God was preached that they were born again.
- b. This Word is timeless truth from God and it is the *“living and enduring word of God.”* (1 Peter 1:23)
- c. **Matthew 24:35** – *“Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away.”*
- d. **Joshua 1:8** – *“Do not let this Book of the Law depart from your mouth; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful.”*
- e. **Psalms 119:2** – *“Blessed are they who keep his statutes and seek him with all their heart.”*

## 3. The Foundation – Built on Jesus Christ

- a. Today, cornerstones are laid more as a ceremonial stone to mark the date the building was built, but originally, the cornerstone was the first stone of a masonry foundation.
- b. All stones were set in alignment with the cornerstone, which determined the position of the entire structure.
- c. There are eight references in 1 Peter 2 to Jesus being that *“Stone.”*
- d. Peter is saying that Jesus must be that foundational stone in our lives by which everything else is aligned.
- e. Pastor Gary emphasized the reason the church was named Cornerstone Chapel was because the desire was to ensure that everything that happened in the life of the church was to be measured off of Jesus as the foundation stone.

### Submit to Authority

## 4. Peter writes about submission in three arenas:

- a. The World
- b. The Workplace
- c. The Home
- d. The word submission in Greek is *hupotasso*,<sup>2</sup> which means to arrange under in an orderly manner.
- e. God has implemented structure and order for the sake of unity and harmony.
- f. If there were no structure, order or authority, we would have anarchy, chaos and disorder of every kind.
- g. It’s important to understand three things about submission.
  - i. Conditions may not always be favorable for submission.

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<sup>2</sup> *Hupo* means under, and *tasso* means to arrange in an orderly manner.

1. Anyone can submit to someone they agree with, and someone who they think is loving or reasonable.
2. The real test of submission is often under adverse conditions, not favorable ones.
  - a. **1 Peter 2:18** - *“Slaves,<sup>3</sup> in reverent fear of God submit yourselves to your masters, not only to those who are good and considerate, but also to those who are harsh.”*
  - b. It’s important to remember that Peter is writing at a time when Christians were being martyred by the thousands, and yet he instructs Christians to *“honor the king.”* (**1 Peter 2:17**)
  - c. It’s God’s will that we must respect the office of the President or whoever is in authority.
    - i. The Bible does allow the possibility of civil disobedience, but only when the government asks a person to do something against God, but outside of that, Christians are to honor the king.
- ii. Submission is God’s design for order and harmony and it has nothing to do with ranking people as better than or less than another.
  1. When James and John were vying for the top positions of honor with Jesus in the Kingdom Age, there was a rift between them and the disciples, so Jesus called them together and he made it clear for his followers when he said: *“You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them. Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be your slave – just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”* (**Matthew 20:25–28**)
  2. *“There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.”* (**Galatians 3:28**)
- iii. The Bible never advocates the co-leading of anything.
  1. There should be checks and balances, as well as accountability, mutual respect and servant leadership, but never the co-leading of anything.

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<sup>3</sup> Culturally, we would understand this as employees.

## Discussion Questions

1. Review the introduction to the study guide with your group to provide the appropriate background.
2. Read [1 Peter 2:1-10](#) and [1 Peter 2:13-3:7](#) to provide an overview for this study.
3. You may want to allow the people in your group to share examples of the foods they crave as a conversation starter.
4. Spend time talking about experiences you've had that demonstrate that the Lord is good.
5. Has the Lord's goodness to you been a motivating factor in your spiritual growth?
6. If someone were to ask you to rank your top ten priorities in life, where would reading and studying the Bible rank?
7. Where do other spiritual disciplines and ministry rank among your priorities?
8. If someone were to ask you for evidence to support your Bible reading habits, what would you say or what would you show them?
9. Do you have a sense of the Lord's blessing of wisdom and guidance in your life because you regularly read and study Scripture?
10. How have you intentionally made sure that your life is aligned with Jesus, the cornerstone?
  - a. Is your life aligned with the Cornerstone in every area?
  - b. Do you find that you don't demonstrate the same behaviors and patterns in your "church life" and your work life?
  - c. How do you go about the process of aligning yourself with the Cornerstone?
11. How would you say you're doing with the concept of being submitted regarding to the world?
12. Allow the people in your group to share experiences they've had regarding submission in the workplace.

13. Do you think that there is a proper order and structure in your home when it comes to submission?
  
14. Close your time in prayer by asking the Holy Spirit to help each person: to reprioritize certain areas of their life regarding spiritual disciplines like reading the Bible, etc.; to understand the need to live in proper submission in the world, the workplace and the home; pray Scripture by selecting someone in advance to read **1 Peter 3:8** - *“Finally, all of you, be like-minded, be sympathetic, love one another, be compassionate and humble.”*

Note: Unless noted, all Scriptures quoted are from the New International Version (NIV).