

Spiritual Injuries and the Truth

1 Peter 2:1-3

I. Introduction: Context of the Passage

a. Relationship to Chapter 1

i. Describe the focus of Chapter 1

1. Born again to a living hope (1:3)
2. An inheritance (i.e., salvation) that is imperishable (1:4)
3. Admonished to be sober-minded, or clear in our thinking, regarding the Gospel we have received (1:13)
4. Called obedience of the truth of God's Word because it is the imperishable seed by which we are born again. (1:14, 23)
5. The word that was preached is the good news. (1:25b)

b. Identify logical flow of the text

i. "So" / "Therefore" Statement in verse 1

1. This links what we are about to discuss in verses 1-3 of chapter two with the ideas that are discussed in the preceding verses.

ii. "If" statement in verse 3

1. This if statement sets the conditions for the two ideas captured in verses 1 and 2.

Sermonic Pivot: Peter reminded his readers that the word of God is the seed that produces eternal life within us. Today we will look at two results that come from being born again by the truth of the Gospel.

II. The first result is that we will yearn for the truth because we recognize it as the only way to grow in our understanding of salvation.

- a. Peter uses the image of a newborn infant, not because the people reading the letter were new Christians. Peter wanted to point to a characteristic of new born infants that is unmistakable and that we as followers of Jesus should possess.
- b. A newborn infant is not ashamed of its hunger.
 - i. There are many, but one of the greatest hindrances to feasting on the truth is fear we feel at the thought that someone will think we don't have it figured out.
 - ii. Our fear of missing the feast that God has prepared for us should be more influential than what others will think or say about us. Particularly if what we they will say is about our faithfulness.

- c. A newborn infant is unrelenting in its pursuit of satisfaction.
 - i. A framing question: do you know how hungry you are for the truth?
 - ii. **Story:** Conversation I had with college students that we don't know how spiritually malnourished we are until we started eating properly.

Linking Sentence: The first result of being born again is that it creates a hunger for the truth of God. The second result takes our hunger one step further. We not only have a hunger for truth, we also have a hunger for righteousness.

III. The second result of being born again is that we will desire to put away any practice that is inconsistent with God's character.

- a. What is the relationship between the truth and the putting away of the practices that Peter identifies?
 - i. The truth **identifies** what is good by calling out our malice for what it is.
 - ii. The truth **challenges** us to live in integrity by undermining our deceptions.
 - iii. The truth **exposes** our pretense and **unmasks** our hypocrisy.
 - iv. The truth **magnifies** our blessings and curbs our envy.
 - v. The truth **fosters** truthfulness by revealing the lies we entertain.
- b. We put away these practices because that is what we do now that we are believers.

IV. Conclusion

- a. Summary
 - i. The born again believer yearns for the truth
 - ii. The born again believer desires to put away all practices not in line with God's character.
- b. The first result of being born again is that a hunger for truth begins to grow within us. And, we are left with a choice. Will we be satisfied with the food God provides or will we look for some other source of satisfaction?
 - i. We should not allow ourselves to partake of anything as a substitute for the truth of God.
- c. The second result of being born again is that our pursuit of the truth forces us to conform our lives into the image of he who is the embodiment of the Word—Jesus.
 - i. The truth exposes the traps of the enemy.
 - ii. The truth captivates our imaginations and frees us to enjoy the life God has given to us.

V. Prayer