

A God-Lived Life – Month 1
Text Study: 1 Peter 1:22-2:3



The God-Lived Life

- A Life of Being a Disciple
- A Life Lived for Others
- A Life of Hospitality
- A Life Lived Shrewdly

God became man and lived life in our place. Christ lived the perfect God-lived life. Living as a *Christian*, a little Christ, we have the privilege of demonstrating what God looks like in how we live our lives, in living lives that show God. So for the next four months, God's Word will be challenging us and we'll be challenging one another and to live a God-lived life. And that encompasses everything. We're talking about a life of being a disciple, a life lived for others, a life of hospitality, and a life lived shrewdly.

Note: The Gathering Rite is reused each week with slight adjustments.

Month 1 - The God-lived Life is a Life of Being a Disciple

Key Concept: Stewardship of the Truth

This week, the particular focus of the God-lived life is that of being a disciple, a learner, one who grows in God's Word. May God's Word cause us to crave that pure spiritual milk so that by it we grow up in our salvation.

Gospel - Luke 18:9-17* - Parable of the Pharisee and the Tax Collector

In the Gospel Lesson, we see an example of someone who appeared to live a God-lived life but was living for himself. The one who trusted in the life God lived for him went home to live a truly God-lived life.

First Reading - 2 Chronicles 34:1-2,14-21, 29-33#

Here we have the account of Israel's Confirmation Day. The Word was found. The Word was read. The Word changed their hearts and they committed to live according to it. May we do the same.

Second Reading - 1 Peter 1:22-2:3+

The truth of God's Word changes us to live God-lived lives, to love one another and to live the life of a disciple of the Word.

Psalm 1##

Gospel Acclamation

Proverbs 1:7 - The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and instruction.

Note: If doing a full-length service, use the readings as appointed. If following the suggestion for in-service Bible Study, see below:

- *This lesson is read during shortened service*
- +This lesson serves as sermon text*
- #This lesson is the basis for 19-minute Bible Study*
- ##This is dropped.*

Hymns

Opening Gathering Rite (CW467)
Hymn of the Day - CWS 735 - Speak O Lord
Closing Hymn - CW 500 - For Christian Homes, O Lord, We Pray

Alternates/Hymns for daily devotions

CW 283 - Speak, O Savior; I Am Listening
CW 293 - God's Word Is Our Great Heritage
CW 290 - One Thing's Needful
CW 469 - Take my life and let it be
CW 289 - Preserve Your Word, O Savior

Related readings

2 Peter 3:10-18
Colossians 2:6-7

CONTEXT OF THE READING:

In the first chapter of his letter, Peter praised God for the work he has done in us, giving us new birth into a living hope. We rejoice even while suffering. Even the prophets studied their own writings to understand Christ's coming work more. They knew they were writing for you. Even the angels long to look into these things (v. 12). "Therefore," Peter gives five imperatives (with plenty of attached participles taking imperatival force) as to how we should live as a response to the amazing gift of grace we've been given:

- "Prepare your minds for action" (v. 13),
- "Be self-controlled" (v. 13),
- "Set your hope fully" on the coming grace (v. 13),
- "Do not conform to the evil desires" (v. 14),
- "Be holy" (v. 15),

- “live your lives as strangers here” (v. 17).

Then, we get to the verses of our text and three more imperatival thoughts: “Love” (v. 22), “Rid” (2:1), and “Crave” (2:2). See below for more on that.

TEXT STUDY - 1 PETER 1:22-2:3⁺

For each verse, a hyper-literal translation has been provided in italics to help communicate some of the thoughts hidden in the Greek vocables and grammar.

1 Peter 1:22 -

Τὰς ψυχὰς ὑμῶν ἡγνικότες ἐν τῇ ὑπακοῇ τῆς ἀληθείας εἰς φιλαδελφίαν ἀνυπόκριτον, ἐκ [καθαρᾶς] καρδίας ἀλλήλους ἀγαπήσατε ἐκτενωῶς

Having cleansed your souls in obeying the truth into unhyprocritical brotherly love, out of clean hearts love each other fervently (with perseverance)

ἡγνικότες – perfect active participle – to purify or cleanse (making acceptable for use in worship), (Mid – to dedicate oneself, set oneself apart). The fact of our cleansing has happened and the effects continue.

Φιλαδελφίαν – long before Philadelphia existed as the city of “brotherly love”, Philadelphia existed in the hearts of brothers and sisters in the family of faith. They loved each other. Christians love each other even when there is no evident reason to love someone.

ἐκτενωῶς – BAGD – “pertaining to being persevering, eagerly, fervently, constantly

Peter says that we have cleansed our souls in the sphere of obeying the truth. Holding to the truth in faith is what cleanses us. And the result (εἰς) is brotherly love that is not fake or put on. So he commands us to love each other fervently, from the heart.

1 Peter 1:23 -

ἀναγεγεννημένοι οὐκ ἐκ σπορᾶς φθαρτῆς ἀλλὰ ἀφθάρτου διὰ λόγου ζῶντος θεοῦ καὶ μένοντος.

Having been born again, not of perishable seed but of imperishable, through the living and enduring word of God.

ἀναγεγεννημένοι – another perfect participle, this time passive. We have been born again and now live as those who are born again.

That rebirth happened through means (διὰ) – the Word from God (gen. of source), that Word that lives and remains. It is active and constant.

1 Peter 1:24

διότι

πᾶσα σὰρξ ὡς χόρτος
καὶ πᾶσα δόξα αὐτῆς ὡς ἄνθος χόρτου·
ἐξηράνθη ὁ χόρτος καὶ τὸ ἄνθος ἐξέπεσεν·

For “All flesh (is) as grass, and all its glory (is) like the flower of grass. The grass is dried up and the flower falls”

διότι – BAGD’s 3rd entry: “marker used to indicate why something just stated can reasonably be considered valid, used in place of ὅτι”

ἐξηράνθη – aorist (stressing fact), Passive, Indicative – it is dried up – that’s what happens to it.

1 Peter 1:25 -

τὸ δὲ ῥῆμα κυρίου μένει εἰς τὸν αἰῶνα.
τοῦτο δὲ ἐστὶν τὸ ῥῆμα τὸ εὐαγγελισθὲν εἰς ὑμᾶς.

But the word of the Lord remains into the ages, and this is the word, the one preached as good news to you.

ῥῆμα - Word - ῥῆμα and λόγος seem to be used interchangeably in these verses, here quoting the Septuagint’s use of ῥῆμα in the Isaiah passage quoted here.

εὐαγγελισθὲν – Aorist passive participle – proclaim good news

Paul uses this quote from Isaiah’s comfort for God’s people, where the confidence and stability of God’s promises are contrasted with our transiency, in order to remind us the solid and sure foundation of our living the God-lived life. It is God’s Word that made us what we are. It is his unchanging Word that will strengthen us to be what we are.

As we turn to chapter 2, Peter applies that truth to our lives. Since God has given us new birth through his powerful word, having commanded love for one another in 1:22, chapter 2 picks up how that happens.

1 Peter 2:1 -

Ἀποθέμενοι οὖν πᾶσαν κακίαν καὶ πάντα δόλον καὶ ὑποκρίσεις καὶ φθόνους καὶ πάσας καταλαλιὰς,

Therefore, having placed aside all hateful feeling, and all deceit and pretense and jealousy, and all slander...

Ἀποθέμενοι – aorist middle participle – “having placed aside”. Used in this string of imperatives, it takes imperatival force. Could be translated as circumstantial means – “By ridding” or manner. Either way the sense is clear.

1 Peter 2:2 -

ὡς ἀρτιγέννητα βρέφη τὸ λογικὸν ἄδολον γάλα ἐπιποθήσατε, ἵνα ἐν αὐτῷ αὐξηθῆτε εἰς σωτηρίαν,

As newborn babies crave the unadulterated word-milk, in order that in it you may grow up in salvation.

ἀρτιγέννητος – newborn

ἄδολον – lit. “no deceit”, unadulterated (referring to milk), but here milk is clearly picturing the Word, so the term becomes that much richer. Crave the pure thing.

ἐπιποθήσατε – aorist active imperative – crave, have a strong desire for

λογικὸν – occurs here and in Romans 12:1. NIV translates “spiritual” both times. BDAG gives as first meaning “carefully thought through.” In his commentary on Romans, Kuske makes these comments: The words *logizomai* (“to reason, to give careful thought to”) and *logos* (“word” or “Formal accounting”) are related Greek terms” (Kuske, Romans 9-16, pg. 181).

“Some versions (NIV, NASB) translate this word with ‘spiritual.’ ...This assumption seems unlikely given the fact that *λογικὸς* has no relation to the Greek word *pneumatikos*.... Furthermore, a meaning for *λογικὸς* in the 1 Peter passage that fits both the context there and this word’s related Greek term *λόγος* would be ‘word milk’” (ibid. 181).

Think of the vivid picture here. If a baby doesn’t get milk, or gets it and then has it taken away, it screams. They realize the need and importance of it and get fussy when they don’t have it. That’s how we should be with God’s Word. We have been born again (1:23). We are these newborn babies (2:2). Let’s crave the milk we need so desperately, that is, the Word of God. It leads to (εἰς) salvation.

1 Peter 2:3 -

εἰ ἐγεύσασθε ὅτι χρηστός ὁ κύριος.

If (since) you have tasted that the Lord is good.

Χρηστός – good, high standard of value

ἐγεύσασθε – perfect tense – you have tasted and the results continue. You know it is good.

Even more reason a baby craves that milk. It knows it is good. We have been born again through the Word. We know what it has accomplished and what it can accomplish. Of course, we are going to want it more.

HOMILETICAL NOTES:

Malady: Not appreciating the value of God's Word or letting it change your life. The Word is what purified us and gave us new life. The Word is what causes us to grow in our salvation. Not loving sincerely, not ridding our lives of malice, deceit, etc. are indicators of failing to appreciate the value of the Word.

Specific Gospel: God did give us his word. Through it, we have tasted that the Lord is good. It tells us of the God-lived life. Jesus, true God, craved the word perfectly (consider boy Jesus in temple). He used the Word to ward off Satan's temptations (Matthew 4). And he gives us salvation through that same Word. The Word tells of his forgiveness for our failures to value His Word. The Word inspires a desire to grow in it.

OUTLINE IDEAS:

A God-Lived Life is one that craves the Word.

Intro: A God-Lived Life

- I. The Word has given new life
 - a. Imperishable
 - b. Compare to everything else
- II. The Word Changes our lives
 - a. Love Brothers
 - b. Crave Word

A God-Lived Life is One that Craves the Word.

Intro: A God-Lived Life

- I. The Word makes you who you are.
- II. The Word makes itself important to you.

CHILDREN'S SERMON IDEA: (maybe have some of your favorite food on hand as demonstration)

Food is good, right? Who here likes food? Likes to eat? Why? Why not just not eat for a few weeks? There are a lot of reasons, right? First, you need food so you can live, so you can grow strong, so you can have energy to do what you need to do. And then, it tastes good, too, doesn't it? And eating it is a way to show love and appreciation for the person who made it for you—lots of good reasons.

Now, I want to you think about your favorite food. What are you thinking about? What's your favorite food? Now, imagine you were really hungry, you hadn't eaten all day and I gave you that food that you are thinking of—and I let you take your first bite, and as soon as you realized

how delicious it was and how it was going to help you not be so hungry, I took it away. How would you feel?

OK—that's the picture God's Word uses in our reading today about God's Word. He says that his Word is like that favorite food for your faith. It tastes good—because it tells you how much God loves you. And it is just as important as food is for your body—because the Word is what builds your faith so it doesn't starve. God wants us to want his Word as much as we want that favorite food. He wants us to ask for it, to come to Sunday School and ask your parents for family devotions—because it is that good.

Let's pray:

Dear Jesus, thank you for giving us your Word. Help us always realize how wonderful and important it is, and help us love hearing and reading it so we keep growing closer to you. In your name we pray, Amen.

NIV 2011 TEXT:

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.