

1 Peter

Lesson #7, Chapter 2:1-8

Read through Chapter 1 and 2:1-8 before beginning this lesson. Ask the Lord for His help as you approach this lesson.

1. Chapter 2:1 begins with *therefore*. As good Bible students we need to ask, "What is *therefore* there for?" What preceding comments are being connected to 2:1?
2. What command is given in verse 1?
3. Define each of those dreadful qualities listed in verse 1.
4. What does Peter urge us to do in verse 2? What is the manner in which we are to obey this encouragement?
5. Define *long* (NIV *crave*; KJV *desire*).
6. John MacArthur writes, "Spiritual growth is always marked by a craving for and a delight in God's word with the intensity with which a baby craves milk." Early church father, Tertullian, suggests, "The word of God must be desired for the sake of life, devoured by hearing, ruminated by understanding, digested by faith." As you look up the following verses ask yourself, "Is this true of me?" If it isn't, turn to God in prayer, repent of any sin and beg God to give you an intense hunger for His word. Be encouraged that God will answer your prayer because it is His will. Look up at least 5 of the following verses and summarize what you learn: Job 23:12; Ps. 1:1-2;

19:7-11; 119:16, 24, 35, 47-48, 72, 92, 97, 103, 111, 113, 127, 159, 167, 174;
Jer. 15:16.

7. According to verse 2, what is the result of implementing what Peter is urging?

8. Verse 3 explains why we we're expected to obey those commands. What is the explanation?

9. How have we tasted the kindness of the Lord? You will find your answer in Chapter 1 as it moves into 2:1-3.

10. If you are a Christian, you have tasted the kindness of the Lord. Are you putting aside evil deeds and longing for the Word of God so that you will grow in your walk with the Lord as 2:1-3 says? What are some practical ways you can begin to implement these steps today?

11. How does verse 4 describe Christ?

12. How are we described in verse 5? What is your purpose revealed here in verse 5?

13. What kinds of sacrifices can you offer to Christ that would be acceptable to Him? See Micah 6:6-8; Rom. 12:1-2; 15:16; Phil. 4:18; Heb. 13:15-16.

14. In verses 6 and 7 Peter affirms the truths he has just written by supporting it from the Scriptures. What do you learn? Where does that Scripture reference come from?

15. Explain the value and function of a cornerstone. See also Eph. 2:19-22.

16. Verse 6 says that those who believe in Christ will not be disappointed. In what way will Christ not disappoint us? See Is. 28:16; Ps. 22:5; Rom. 9:32-33; 10:10-13.

17. Consider carefully your own responses to Christ. The Scriptures say that we will not be disappointed if we believe in Him, but do you find yourself disappointed, depressed, angry at the way your life is going? Why is that? Is it because you have a wrong view of what God is doing in your life? Do you have a wrong view of salvation and what God intends for you? Ask God to help you rejoice in your salvation and to see Him properly. Adjust your thinking so that you will think rightly about God.

18. Peter then contrasts those who believe in Christ with those who disbelieve. What do you learn about those unbelievers in verses 7-8?

19. Verse 8 concludes with, “and to this doom they were also appointed” which seems to mean that they were destined to disobey the word of God. Rather, it means that those who are disobedient to the word by rejecting Christ stumble, which is the doom they are destined for. Look up the following verses to discover the lengths men go to to reject the precious Cornerstone: Jn. 3:19; 5:39-40; Rom. 2:5-8; 2 Pet. 3:16.

20. There are only 2 groups of people here: those who believe in Christ and those who reject Him. There can never be neutral ground where Christ is concerned. It may be that some of you are trying to live in the neutral zone, but if you have not repented of your sins and placed your faith in Christ, He is a stumbling stone to you. Do you regard Christ as the precious Cornerstone or do you reject Him?

21. Even for those who have placed their faith in Christ there is a warning here: do not reject God’s Word by unbelief and disobedience. What do you learn from the following verses about believing and obeying God’s word? See Ps. 37:31; 119:11; Luke 6:46; 1 Thess. 4:1-2; Heb. 5:9; 1 Jn. 2:3-6.

22. How are you doing in this area of belief and obedience to God’s Word? Is there any danger of you stumbling in disobedience over some issue or attitude? How is it possible to move from unbelief and disobedience to rejoicing in Christ?

23. Though we have focused our attention on what happens when someone rejects Christ, Peter’s goal in this section is to reveal the glories of Jesus Christ. What encouragements have you discovered in verses 1-8?