

thereby: if so be ye have tasted that the Lord is gracious” (1 Peter 2:2,3). Now most of us know the taste of lots of things. The very idea of something one likes causes him to “taste” it. Have you ever said, “I can taste it already”, even before it gets on the tongue? The question of “what does grace taste like”, isn’t easily answered, but our focus is not so much on that but rather how good it should taste to a Christian.

A baby probably desires its milk, not just because it tastes good to him, although surely it does, but for all the reasons human beings need to eat. In fact, the hunger within us is akin to taste as a stimulant to eat. A baby doesn’t necessarily eat to grow, but that is an inevitable byproduct. Sometimes you hear of people who eat to grow, like a small-for-his-size teenager, or a boxer trying to make a higher weight class. But Peter uses the sense of taste as a stimulant to grow up in one’s faith. Eating baby food leads to full adult meals and that process is growth, physically or spiritually.

Why does Peter connect this tasting process to one’s perception of God’s grace? What is he talking about? He’s describing a craving, or intense longing for more. A taste is typically a sample. Stores do it all the time providing tidbits to entice shoppers to buy more. Jesus talked about living water that will forever dispense with thirst (cf. John 4), and food that will take away hunger (cf. John 6). He told the crowds on the mountain that

it is a blessed thing to hunger and thirst after righteousness (Matthew 5:6). That’s what Peter’s saying. Once a person gets a taste of God’s blessing it will kindle an insatiable appetite for more. At least, that’s what’s supposed to happen!

God has laid out a smorgasbord of good things for us to indulge on. He wants us to sample it all so that we will always want more. He knows if we eat we will grow. That too is what He wants!

A COUPLE OF FAMILIAR STORIES AND A PHILOSOPHY

By: Neal Pollard



You have heard the story about the “man on the wall.” A traveler down the road reaches the city where a sage sits at its gate. The traveler is thinking of moving to this city, but wants to know more about it. He asks the sage, “What kind of people do you have in this town?” The sage responds, “Well, what kind of people do you have in the town from which you come?” The traveler reports, “Oh, they are snobbish, selfish, cruel, hateful, and unkind.” The sage says, “You will find the same in this city.”

Before long, another traveler reaches the city gate and has the same interest as the first man. He asks the sage, “What kind of people do you have in this town?” Again, the sage replies, “Well, what kind of people do you have in the town from which you come?” The traveler thinks, then quips, “Oh, they are helpful, kind, charitable, and pleasant!” The sage says, “You will find the same in this city.”

Another well-traveled story is that of the man, his son, and their donkey. They are making a long journey, and begin with both of them on the back of this beast of burden. They reach the first city, and people say, “Such cruel people to weigh down that animal so!” Struck by those words, they decided to make a change. The father climbed down and walked alongside the donkey, which carried his son. At the next town, the citizens loudly denounced the situation: “How could that healthy young man so mistreat his father and relegate him to walking?” Embarrassed, the son and father switched places. At the next town, critics chided this arrangement, too. “What an abusive father, to force his son to walk while he rides in luxury?”

Flabbergasted, the two concocted their solution. Both walked, guiding the donkey as they went. The townspeople they next encountered laughed them to scorn, saying, “What foolish men, to have such an animal and not make use of him!”

The common thread in these two stories is attitude. One illustrates the attitude we have in life while the other should brace us to handle the attitudes of others. One encourages having a proper outlook, while the other encourages us to properly handle the “in-look” of others. While the moral of the second is that we will never please everyone, the moral of the first is that we are in charge of our own happiness and joy.

Attitude may seem like such a minor thing, but it is the fulcrum of either success or failure, happiness or unhappiness. Ultimately, nobody else can make you one or the other. You are in charge of that! “Be glad in the Lord and rejoice, you righteous ones; and shout for joy, all you who are upright in heart” (Ps. 32:11). Paul said it best: “I have learned to be content in whatever circumstances I am (Phil. 4:11b). Choose the route of optimism and hope. As those in Christ, how could we find ourselves anywhere else?”

Please keep Cathy Durham’s Aunt, Jean Myers, in your prayers. Jean is in the hospital with blood clots in both legs. They have postponed her surgery 6-8 months because they have to put her on Coumadin, a blood thinner. She will be in the hospital for at least 4 days. Please send her a card at her address below:

Jean Myers
811 19th Street
Vienna, WV 25105



Amanda Biter
02/01
Abigail Gates
02/01
Dorothy
Hamby 02/01

Darrell Fletcher 02/17
Shelby Lindsey 02/14
Edsel Forrest 2/17
Angela Hazelwood 02/29



Please take the time to look at the Directory on the table in the foyer to make sure your information is correct. Also,

Phyllis Davis is now ready to schedule people to take Pictures for our new Directory. Please see Phyllis to schedule a time. We would like to get this done within the next two months.

Please continue to keep Ken McWilliams in your prayers. He is still waiting on some test results.



Please note that we will have our men's business meeting on February 12, 2012 at 4:pm. Not this evening.

Prayer List: **Cancer:** Kenneth Dunn; Rhonda Bogus; Rick Campbell; Debbie Boggs; Lowell Crumfield; Barbara Hill; Tammy Hodges; Barbara Francis; Jeff Wiley. **Health problems:** Virgil Steele; Donald Rife; Eugene Holdren; Steve and Pam Poorman's-daughter; Glenna Dempsey; Marlin Harles; Hazel Farr & JR Farr; Jean Walden; Kara Christian;

Rex "Jimmy" Backus; Dosie Branscome & Katie Hensley. Arnold Dempsey; Ken McWilliams; Gene Booth; Wanda Rowe; Diane Haleston; Billy Myers; Zack Holland; **Strokes:** Richard Clement; Amanda Lance. **Other:** Shelby Lindsey-fibromyalgia; Kyle Hockenberry-recovering from military injuries; Betty Bailey-not eating; Brooke Family, Ken McWilliams friend Wolf - eye problems; David Carrico-Leukemia; Lura Durham-dizziness & had to have a pacemaker; Sean Smither-bad car accident; Robin Hodges; Betty Scott- tests; Hazel Anderson-fluid around her heart; Debra Lagos-issue with her pregnancy; Justin Begil's nephew Payton -meningitis; Whitney Lockman-health problems; Edna Roberts-tumor on thyroid; Kimberly Redden -Spots on lungs; Christine Asbury-home recovering from back surgery; David Allen-surgery on his neck; Travis Durham-back problem; Ethan Oliver-Acute Lymphocytic Leukemia. Debbie Jones accident; Gary Durham; Ken McWilliams-eye and health problems; Johnny Blankenship-health problems; Scott Boyd III- surgery on tumor; Bridget Harrisburg-health problems; Linda Harris-health/job problems; Mildred Lilly-cancer & needs liver transplant; Cody Sells-health problems; Don Dillon's wife-has cancer; His grandchild is a 6 year old having problems with his mind; David Blankenship-heart attack; Albert Mahon-cancer; Hunter Miller- sight, ear infection and a virus along with the pneumonia; Rose Reece friend Patricia Rotenberry has cancer. Caleb Hill-back in the hospital; Britney; Ed Thomas-blockage in his heart; Ruby Biter; Kenneth Asbury seizure; Elijah Robertson-11 years old with seizure; Kristen Morris-flu; Beth Elliott-stent put in her brain to relieve pressure from an aneurism **Alzheimer's:** Zella England; Mary Lou Thomas, & Leo Hamby. **Nursing home:** Peggy Barie is in the Loving Hands Adult Care; Ethel Pitzer- Country View Assisted Living; **Military:** Zachary McConnell. **Sympathy:** Joe Saunders Family; Debbie Jones Family.

Mailing Address:
211 Church Street
Rich Creek, VA 24147
wwjd@exhorter.com

Preacher:
Roger Hazelwood:
Cell: 304-324-7799
rlh90@comcast.net

Services:
Sunday:
Bible Study: 9:30 AM
Worship: 10:30 AM
Evening: 5:PM
Wednesday: 6:PM

Serving Communion:
Don Hill
James Asbury
Darrell Fletcher

Attendance:
January 22, 2012
A.M. Worship -
P.M. Worship -
January 25, 2012
Wednesday: 16

Contribution: \$ 471.00

TV Programs on Sunday
In Search of the Lord's
Way 7:30 am
INSP Channel

The Gospel of Christ
10:am CW Channel
www.wvvacofc.com

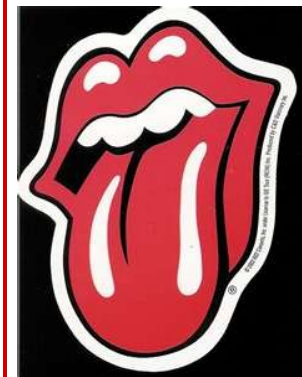
Free Private Home :
Bible Studies & Lessons!
Video Lessons & Tracts!
www.exhorter.com



Church of Christ



Exhorter January 29, 2012



THE TASTE OF GRACE By Dennis Curd

The tongue is an oft discussed bit of anatomy in the Bible. It usually discusses the power of the tongue as a symbol of speech; what words the tongue (plus other body parts) produces. But on occasion another

idea is being discussed and that is the sense of taste. Taste is usually related to the tongue. Every school child studying biology knows the diagram that identifies the portions of the tongue that can taste sweet, bitter, or whatever. One certainly knows the uniqueness of the tongue's place in appreciating the pleasing taste of food placed on it. It is a key to one's desire to eat.

It is that exact idea that Peter used to make an important point. He said, "as newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow