I Peter 2:1-3

got milk?

SUMMARY OF TODAY'S MESSAGE

Babies need milk to survive and to thrive. And newborn babies need and crave it a lot. So too, those who have been spiritually born-again need spiritual milk so that they can grow and be mature. As believers grow, they will begin to enjoy more solid spiritual food.

SUMMARY OF TODAY'S MESSAGE

But here Peter is addressing our *appetites*? Those things we desire and crave. He gives us a three-part instruction that will curb and train our appetites in such a way that maximum growth will be achieved.



THREE WAYS TO ENHANCE YOUR

SPIRITUAL APPETITE
Be Mindful of What You've Tasted (v. 3)

There is encouragement in the Bible for those who delight in God's Word, God's truth

Blessed is the man whose delight is in God's Word (see Psalm 1)

Job said His words were more important than necessary food (see Job 23:12)

THREE WAYS TO ENHANCE YOUR SPIRITUAL APPETITE

God's Words brought joy and rejoicing to Jeremiah's heart (see Jeremiah 15:16)

Psalm 119 has 184 references to the Scripture, the Word of God, and the testimonies of God (see Psalms 119)

"Your statutes are my delight" (Psalms 119:24)

The <u>theme</u> of salvation: <u>delight</u> in, crave after, desire the Word of God

The first response to salvation toward God is that we be <u>holy</u>

A second response to salvation is to <u>love</u> one another The third response to salvation is that we would <u>crave</u> this food (His Word) in order that we might grow

Here's how we grow spiritually:

Appetizer—taste it, it's so good, you are going to want more

Don't be tempted by junk food—push that aside

Make room for the main course

Be mindful, be careful, be faithful

Here's how we grow spiritually:

If indeed you have tasted that the Lord is gracious, put aside the bad stuff

David said, "O, taste and see that the Lord is good" (Psalm 34)

When you've tasted God's goodness, you're going to want more

God tastes better than sin

II. Be <u>Careful</u> to Avoid <u>Junk</u>-Food (v. 1)

Some things will make you lose your appetite
Relational sins—horizontal sins that will take away
your appetite for vertical truth

Food should give you the nutrients you need in order to grow

II. Be Careful to Avoid Junk-Food (v. 1)

Five junk foods

Malice—ill will; a complaining, grumpy person (see Matthew 12:34)

Deceit—to bait a hook; fishing is deceiving fish; cover the hook with something the fish like to eat

Five Junk Foods to Avoid

Hypocrisy—to wear a mask; hypocrites pretend to be something they are not

Envy—what goes on in your heart when someone else is blessed; or you're joyful that some misfortune happened to another person

II. Be <u>Careful</u> to Avoid <u>Junk</u>-Food (v. 1)

Evil speaking or <u>slander</u>—gossip, backbiting, rumor; it could be a raise eyebrow, it could be a sentence you left unfinished

II. Be <u>Careful</u> to Avoid <u>Junk</u>-Food (v. 1)

When you forget how gracious God has been to you, you start getting ungracious toward others

Your bitterness will kill your appetite for His sweetness, or His sweetness will kill your bitterness and dispel it