

**HOW ARE WE TO GROW OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH CHRIST?
LONGING FOR HIS PURE WORD
(Prep. for Nehemiah 8) --- 1PETER 2:1-3**

- I. **To Grow in Our Relationship with Christ, *WE MUST FIRST PUT OFF SIN* (1)**
- A. **“Therefore” in light of being born again unto a sincere love of the brethren by an imperishable seed, His living and remaining Word preached to us...we are to long for the pure milk of the Word (2:1a, 1:22-25)**
- B. **Having gotten rid of ALL those things from our old life that are contrary to a sincere love of the brethren... we are to long for the pure milk of the Word (1)**
1. **All malice**
 2. **All guile, hypocrisy (s) and envy (s)**
 3. **All slander (s)**
- II. **To Grow in Our Relationship with Christ, *WE MUST CONTINUALLY LONG FOR HIS PURE WORD* so that we will grow (2)**
- A. **We are commanded to continually long for, desire earnestly, His pure Word, like newborn babes long for milk to live (2a)**
- B. **The nature of His Word (1:22-25, 2:2)**
1. It is the imperishable seed that caused our initial birth (salvation)
 2. It is alive and remains
 3. It is our spiritual food
 4. It is pure
- C. **We are commanded to continually long for it, so that we would grow in respect to salvation (2b)**
- III. **To Grow in Our Relationship with Christ, *WE MUST FIRST HAVE A RELATIONSHIP WITH HIM*: i.e. “If you have tasted the kindness of the Lord” (3)**