***All Things New*** : New-Life Lessons from the Apostle Peter’s First Letter

**New Life: The Power / Authority of God’s Word**

What energizes you? 1 Peter 2:1-12

 This passage is anchored to the last three verses of chapter one, which three times refer to God’s word. All that we are, have, and do is founded upon the same Gospel which is rejected (2:8) by those who choose not to believe God or His grace. See Psalm 1 for the “Two Paths” or Two Diets.

***Through God’s Word we grow in grace as children. vv. 1-3***

 Just as we learn food choices, we learn spiritual choices. Spiritual growth comes as we devour the pure food of God’s word and reject being energized by deceit, envy, and slander. We eat naturally what tastes good to us, and if we have experienced the grace of God we know that nothing is better! Psalm 34:8-10

***God’s Word reveals God’s salvation / judgment. vv. 4-8***

 Peter tells us that what is precious to us is hated by those who reject God, His Scriptures, and His Christ. The only worship God accepts is that which He has designed: a people-temple of those made holy by Jesus and built upon Him. Romans 9:30-33

***God’s Word reveals patterns and precepts of life. vv. 9-12***

The result of God’s revelation is not merely to inform, but transform. Each of Peter’s terms comes from the Old Testament scriptures, and these patterns of who we are (chosen people, royal priests, holy nation, God’s possession, objects of grace) provide foundation for what we do (avoid vain passions, act honorably in relationships), justifying God’s plans. Ephesians 2:11-22

***Applying Truth to Life: Choose to grow in the grace of Jesus***.

**First. . . Jesus.** Everything God does He does through and/or because of His Son. The Gospel is about Jesus. He is the one rejected by men but chosen by and precious to God. Our priestly sacrifices of praise are offered through Jesus. He is the cornerstone and the stumbling stone. It is Jesus through whom we receive salvation mercy. There is no Plan B. None. Acts 4:10-12

**Second. . . Choices.** Notice that God’s choice of us to be His people coincides with our choice of Him to be our God. Conversely, God’s rejection of unbelievers coincides with their rejection of Him. Don’t fall into the trap of superficially deciding that it’s ALL about either God’s choices or ours. It is BOTH! No one in hell will ever be able to say that he is there because God didn’t choose to save him. He will know that he never chose God. See Romans 1:18-32 for the account of mankind’s rejection of God.

**Third. . . Growth.** Like all life we know, God’s life is not static, and those who possess His life are being “built up” and made holy in Him. This means first, a major break with sin as a power in our lives, second, an ongoing battle of choosing to obey God rather than our lusts, and third, the final fulfillment of God’s promises at the return of Jesus. Romans 8:1-14, 29, 30