

1 Peter 1:18-2:3 (NIV)

18 For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your forefathers, 19 but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect. 20 He was chosen before the creation of the world, but was revealed in these last times for your sake. 21 Through him you believe in God, who raised him from the dead and glorified him, and so your faith and hope are in God. 22 Now that you have purified yourselves by obeying the truth so that you have sincere love for your brothers, love one another deeply, from the heart. 23 For you have been born again, not of perishable seed, but of imperishable, through the living and enduring word of God. 24 For, “All men are like grass, and all their glory is like the flowers of the field; the grass withers and the flowers fall, 25 but the word of the Lord stands forever.” And this is the word that was preached to you. 1 Therefore, rid yourselves of all malice and all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and slander of every kind. 2 Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation, 3 now that you have tasted that the Lord is good.

60-01-04-The Saints: A Reborn Brotherhood

atonement, gospel, regeneration, brotherly love, spiritual growth

1 Pet 1:18-2:3

The Gospel is about new birth into an eternal family.

INTRODUCTION:

–[**Short verse:** To dwell above with saints we love, / That will be grace and glory. / To live below with saints we know; / That’s another story!] That’s **the Church’s story**. Saints are a reborn brotherhood (which also includes the sisters). **HOM.idea**. But how can people of such diversity, be *a brotherhood*?

–[**1 Pet 1:18-2:3**, *For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your forefathers, but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect. He was chosen before the creation of the world, but was revealed in these last times for your sake. Through him you believe in God, who raised him from the dead and glorified him, and so your faith and hope are in God. Now that you have purified yourselves by obeying the truth so that you have sincere love for your brothers, love one another deeply, from the heart. For you have been born again, not of perishable seed, but of imperishable, through the living and enduring word of God. For, “All men are like grass, and all their glory is like the flowers of the field; the grass withers and the flowers fall, but the word of the Lord stands forever.” And this is the word that was preached to you. // Therefore, rid yourselves of all malice and all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and slander of every kind. Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation, now that you have tasted that the Lord is good.*] What is...

I. The Cost of Exchanging Family Accounts— v.18, *For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your forefathers,*

A. The *divine cost* to buy us out of a *condemned family* and bring us into *God’s family* couldn’t be “*perishable things such as silver or gold*”

1. The family currency of the old Adam isn’t *good enough*. [Only a strong foreign currency works when a country’s economy bottoms out and inflation makes home currency worthless.] (The Fall collapsed our *spiritual economy*. *Sin made us bankrupt*. All the *currency of human ideas and efforts* became spiritually worthless.)
2. Our spiritual life and health could be *redeemed only* with foreign currency coming from *beyond our borders*. (Jesus Christ, God’s Incarnate Son, became that acceptable currency—only His blood shed for our sins on the Cross could *buy humanity back*.)

3. There's much that "*silver or gold*" can't buy. [Money buys *medicine*, but not health – a *house*, but not a home – *companionship*, but not friends – *entertainment*, but not happiness – *food*, but not an appetite – a *bed*, but not sleep – a *crucifix*, but not a Savior – the "*good life*," but not eternal life. "Money," said Seneca, the Roman: "*never yet made anyone rich.*")
- B. A redemption question faces us: "*Can God really pull this off?*"
1. Can we be "redeemed from the empty way of life"? (Nothing else has filled this internal void—this *God-shaped vacuum* in our souls.)
 2. And can we be freed from what's been "*handed down ... from ... forefathers*" (wayward tendencies—generational influences)?
- C. Our questions are answered by the "*precious blood of Christ*" which...
1. Paid completely [*"precious"* = "full price"—John 19:20, "It is finished!"]
 2. Paid legitimately (OT sacrifices required a Lamb, "*without blemish or defect*"—John 1:29, The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, "Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!")

TRANS: The cost for God to fill our soul's *God-shaped void* was to become a human Himself. To break our generational bondage and to bring us into His family, it cost His death for our sins. This is **the gospel of new birth into an eternal family**. *But what is...*

II. The Cost of Joining this Reborn Brotherhood

- A. We enter this loving community by heart obedience—v.22, *Now that you have purified yourselves by obeying the truth so that you have sincere love for your brothers, love one another deeply, from the heart.*
1. There's an initiating family practice: "*you have purified yourselves*"
 - a. ["Wash your hands first!"— Remember hearing that when you came to the table? Your washing didn't pay for the meal. The soap and water was free, too. No searching for a place to wash; the sink came with the house. In fact, all that dirty-handed kids had to do was go wash.]
 - b. [God calls, "Come and dine!" But whether it's at the *Communion Table*, or *feeding on His Word*, or *fellowshipping with other saints*, we must first wash up. The soap and water are already provided by the Holy Spirit. We don't have to search for the sink—wherever we pray is a spiritual altar. All we must do is go to that altar and wash away our sins in Christ's blood!]
 2. Entering God's family also means practicing spiritual reality by "*obeying the truth.*" (It's **not a list of rules** or **theological concepts**.)
 3. Only truth wedded to love gives birth to the practical and useful service described by Peter as a "*sincere love for your brothers.*"
- B. We enter this loving community by "*the living and enduring word of*

God"—v.23-25, For you have been born again, not of perishable seed, but of imperishable, through the living and enduring word of God. For, "All men are like grass, and all their glory is like the flowers of the field; the grass withers and the flowers fall, but the word of the Lord stands forever." And this is the word that was preached to you. (Saints live in two worlds, *because of

1. *2 births, one "*of perishable seed*," the other "*of imperishable*," and*
2. 2 humanities, one that "*withers*," the other that "*stands forever*" from being "*born again...through the living and enduring word of God.*"

TRANS: Christians believe in a Savior Who paid the price to transfer our family account from that of the *1st Adam* to that of the *2nd Adam*, God's Son. This is the "**good news**" of a **new birth into an eternal family**, the family called "*the saints.*" *But it has a cost...*

III. The Cost of a Saintly Lifestyle

- A. It means a new way of living—v.2:1, *Therefore, rid yourselves of all malice and all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and slander of every kind.* (This isn't "*cheap grace*" but grace that will cost us our lives, as it did Christ — 1 John 2:6, Whoever claims to live in him must walk as Jesus did.)
- B. It means growing up spiritually—v.2:2, *Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation.* [Peter uses **breastfeeding** to illustrate this need of spiritual *nurture* for our spiritual *nature*. God equips babies with a rooting reflex. When hungry, an infant *automatically* turns a wide-open mouth to latch on, when the mom's nipple touches the face. *After their birth from the womb*, this rooting reflex keeps babies nourished with milk from their mothers' breasts. THIS is like the way we continue to grow as Christians. After giving us *new birth*, God puts a craving in our hearts for spiritual food. We won't be satisfied sucking on thumbs or pacifiers. We must feed upon Christ, *the living Word of God*, Who gave us spiritual new birth.]

CONCLUSION:

—**New birth** puts us **into an eternal family**. v.2:3 says, "*now that you have tasted that the Lord is good.*" This "*born again*" experience into God's family is merely tastes His goodness. It's not intellectually learned but "*tasted*"; not a belief system but the relationship of a child to a Parent.

—One assurance of being "*born again*" is an inner craving to feed on the life of God you "tasted" when you came to Christ. One blessing of this *new birth* is finding Christ's special presence when we come together with sibling saints, our brothers and sisters in Christ, as we do now.