



partakes only of milk is not accustomed to the word of righteousness, for he is an infant. But solid food is for the mature, who because of practice have their senses trained to discern good and evil." We should never remain stagnate in our understanding of God's will. However, in keeping with the author's illustration, what mature adult only eats meat without taking in the nourishment which milk still provides? This passage does not teach that we should come to consume meat in place of milk, but rather that we should eat meat in addition to the milk.

hearing basic lessons over and over again?

Some may protest (as I have at times), "*We need the meat of the word!*"

This is an allusion to Hebrews 5:12-14: "**For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you have need again for someone to teach you the elementary principles of the oracles of God, and you have come to need milk and not solid food. For everyone who**

I will leave you with this thought: sometimes when we are reminded time and time again of the basics, we come away having learned things that we never knew were there. Brethren, let us never underestimate the value of being reminded of what we already know. The basic things found in the Word of God are the very foundation of our faith and hope. May we never let them slip from our minds.



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Welcome Visitors

We are so glad that you joined us today.
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● **Let us know if you have any questions.**

ISSUE

16.29

BULLETIN OF
THE OLSEN
PARK CHURCH
OF CHRIST

Faithful Sayings

July 20,
2014



Services

Sunday: 9:30 AM
10:20 AM
6:00 PM
Wednesday: 7:00 PM

Elders:

Pat Ledbetter
Jeff Nunn
Kyle Pope

Deacons:

Eddie Cook
Steve Dixon
Jack Langley
Neil Ledbetter
Brady McAlister
Walker McAnear
Lance Purcell
Rusty Scott

Evangelists:

Kyle Pope
Andrew Dow

The Importance of a Good Reminder

By Andrew Dow

Have you ever found yourself saying, "*I wish the preacher would preach on something I haven't heard about?*" Or have you ever asked yourself, "*Why does the preacher preach the same things over and over?*" I've made statements like this from time to time, and I'm confident that other Christians have as well. Why do we say such things? I'm afraid many Christians have a tendency to want to hear new ideas, and many preachers want to present them. While we must never squelch honest discussion and search for truth, we must also not neglect the importance of being reminded of the basic truth of God's Word. Let's examine three things as we study this topic together.

First, an infatuation with new ideas has led many Christians away from the truth.

Truth comes from the mind of God, not from the intellectual pursuits of men. This fact is vital and must be understood before we can move forward. While praying to the Father, Jesus made this point abundantly clear with this simple statement, "**Your word is truth**" (John 17:17b, NASU). Compare that phrase with Jeremiah's important words, "**A man's way is not in himself, nor is it in a man who walks to direct his own steps**" (Jeremiah 10:23). The fact of the matter is,

man cannot know the truth without the guidance of God's Word. The Spirit said through Paul, **"For the word of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written, 'I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the cleverness of the clever I will set aside'"** (1 Corinthians 1:18-19). God's ways are always higher than man's ways (cf. Isaiah 55:8-9).

With this in mind, it is easy to see how man's *innovative* ideas can lead them away from the truth. Paul frequently spoke of this very fact. **"The Spirit**

explicitly says that in later times some will fall away from the faith, paying attention to deceitful spirits and doctrines of demons, by means of the hypocrisy of liars seared in their own consciences as with a branded iron" (1 Timothy 4:1-2). What ultimately would cause this foretold apostasy? Those who fall away would begin by **"paying attention to deceitful spirits and doctrines of demons."** The church would be introduced to new ideas that would cause certain men to turn away from the truth. Paul warned elsewhere that, **"difficult times will come. For men will be... haters of good... holding to a form of godliness... always learning and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth"** (2 Timothy 3:1-7). Many people will hold onto something that looks like truth, but in reality they are never able to come to a full knowledge of the truth. Paul later explains that **"they will not endure sound doctrine; but wanting to have their ears tickled, they will accumulate for themselves teachers in accordance with their own desires, and will turn away from the truth and turn aside to myths"** (2 Timothy 4:3-4). May it never be said of us that we turned from God's truth for myths, but that our only desire was to hear the Word of God taught. The moment we begin chasing the new ideas of man's wisdom, we begin the process of leaving the truth that God has revealed.

Second, the Scriptures give emphasis to the importance of reminders. This emphasis began with the very one we are to imitate in all things, Jesus Christ (cf. 1 Corinthians 11:1; 1 John 2:6). Toward the beginning of an intimate discussion between Christ and His disciples, He said, **"Have I been so long with you, and yet you have not come to know Me?"** (John 14:9). Our Lord certainly understood that His disciples would need to be reminded of the things that He had taught

them. Later in the same discussion Jesus instructed His followers to **"remember the word that I said to you"** (John 15:20). Still later Jesus said, **"These things I have spoken to you, so that... you may remember that I told you of them"** (John 16:4).

An examination of Acts and the epistles demonstrates that Jesus' apostles continued to stress the importance of remembering. As Paul was bidding farewell to the Ephesian elders he said, **"In everything I showed you that by working hard in this manner you must... remember the words of the Lord Jesus"** (Acts 20:35). He instructed Timothy, **"Remember Jesus Christ, risen from the dead, descendant of David, according to my Gospel... Remind them of these things..."** (2 Timothy 2:8, 14). Here we see the importance of personal remembrance, and the importance of reminding others (cf. Titus 3:1). To the young Thessalonians Paul asked, **"Do you not remember that while I was still with you, I was telling you these things?"** (2 Thessalonians 2:5). Certainly these things were important enough for Paul to write a letter concerning them.

Paul was not, however, the only apostle who reminded his hearers. Peter wrote, **"Therefore, I will always be ready to remind you of these things, even though you already know them, and have been established in the truth which is present with you. I consider it right, as long as I am in this earthly dwelling, to stir you up by way of reminder... and I will also be diligent that at any time after my departure you will be able to call these things to mind"** (2 Peter 1:12-15). Peter understood that his readers had already been **"established in the truth,"**

but he still felt compelled to remind them of the truth (cf. 2 Peter 3:2)! Jude similarly wrote, **"Now I desire to remind you, though you know all things once for all..."** (Jude 5; cf. vs. 17). Christ and the apostles felt compelled to remind their listeners of the truth. How much more should we remind ourselves of the basic truths found in God's word!

Finally, brethren, we must constantly be ready to be reminded and to remind others of the truth. Scriptures clearly warn that falling away is more likely to occur when we are out seeking new things to ponder. These new ideas can lead us away from the truth! With this danger in mind, we ought to look forward to being reminded of those things that we already know. Scriptures also clearly demonstrate that Jesus and His apostles were constantly reminding their hearers of the basic truth of the gospel. Can we not see the value of

