

## **Revelation 10 - The Mighty Angel and the Little Book**

### **Application: A biblical look at euthanasia, based on Revelation 9:5-6**

Today we will cover Revelation chapter 10, but before we start chapter 10, I would like to address an issue that is very relevant to today's society. It's a question that is being asked in the highest places of our government and is already legal in parts of our country. The question is euthanasia or assisted suicide, otherwise called VAD (Voluntary assisted dying). In Australia, VAD (Voluntary assisted dying) is lawful in Victoria in limited circumstances, and will commence in Western Australia on 1 July 2021.

Let's have a read of a part of what we studied last week:

Revelation 9:5-6 NKJV

And they were not given authority to kill them, but to torment them for five months. Their torment was like the torment of a scorpion when it strikes a man. <sup>6</sup> In those days men will seek death and will not find it; they will desire to die, and death will flee from them.

The common argument goes like this; people have a right to die with dignity. Did you know that some proponents of assisted suicide point to passages like the one we just read and say our God is mean-spirited? Why else would He allow people to be tormented, stung by demon-scorpions, and be unable to put an end to their pain?

Is it true that God is mean-spirited? As seen here in chapter 9 of Revelation, is it true that God is not acting out of love when He refuses to let them die when they want to? And are we as believers hard-hearted and calloused because we do not agree with the majority of people in our country who maintain that a person has the right to determine the time of his death?

These verses in Revelation 9:5-6 tell us that God does not want people taken out of their tribulation so readily. Why?

Let's have a look at an example of assisted suicide in 2 Samuel 1 and see what the Bible says about the subject.

Wounded in battle on Mount Gilboah, King Saul lay on the ground. "Kill me," he said to an Amalekite passing by. The Amalekite did so and then rushed to tell David the news, thinking David would be thrilled that he could now ascend the throne.

But David looked at this man and cried, "How could you touch the Lord's anointed?"—the implication being that he had interfered with God's plan. And David ordered him executed on the spot (see 2 Samuel 1:14, 15).

Let's have a closer look at what happened on that sad day. We'll pick it up in 2 Samuel 1:6

2 Samuel 1:6-15 NLT paraphrase

<sup>6</sup> The man answered, "I happened to be on Mount Gilboa, and there was Saul leaning on his spear with the enemy chariots and charioteers closing in on him. <sup>7</sup> When he turned and saw me, he cried out for me to come to him. 'How can I help?' I asked him.

8 “He responded, ‘Who are you?’

“ ‘I am an Amalekite,’ I told him.

9 “Then he begged me, ‘**Come over here and put me out of my misery, for I am in terrible pain and want to die.**’

10 “So I **killed** him,” the Amalekite told David, “for I knew he couldn’t live. Then I took his crown and his armband, and I have brought them here to you, my lord.”

11 **David and his men tore their clothes in sorrow when they heard the news.**

12 They mourned and wept and fasted all day for Saul and his son Jonathan, and for the Lord’s army and the nation of Israel, because they had died by the sword that day.

13 Then David said to the young man who had brought the news, “Where are you from?”

And he replied, “I am a foreigner, an Amalekite, who lives in your land.”

14 “Why were you not afraid to kill the Lord’s anointed one?” David asked.

15 Then David said to one of his men, “Kill him!” So the man thrust his sword into the Amalekite and killed him. 16 **“You have condemned yourself,” David said, “for you yourself confessed that you killed the Lord’s anointed one.”**

Notice Saul’s words in verse 9, **“Come over here and put me out of my misery, for I am in terrible pain and want to die.”**

Then notice the Amalekite’s response, “So I **killed** him... for I knew he couldn’t live.”

King Saul didn’t want to live anymore because of the terrible pain he was in. The evil Amalekite, an enemy of Israel, didn’t see anything wrong with taking Saul’s life, and justified his murder by saying that Saul wouldn’t have lived much longer anyway.

Now notice the response of a godly man and his friends, 11 **David and his men tore their clothes in sorrow when they heard the news. ...** 16 **“You have condemned yourself,” David said, “for you yourself confessed that you killed the Lord’s anointed one.”**

David and his men didn’t say, “Oh well, you did the right thing, thanks for being so kind and considerate and putting Saul out of his misery.” They clearly understood that King Saul had been murdered, and the penalty for murder is death. Thus the Amalekite was put to death that day. So the bible is clear on this subject. Assisted suicide, euthanasia or VAD (voluntary assisted death), however you call it, is plain and simply wrong.

Let’s now look at the two main biblical reasons as to why God says it is so wrong.

### **1. First, God has established the day of death.**

Job 14:5 NLT paraphrase

You have decided the length of our lives.

You know how many months we will live,  
and we are not given a minute longer.

Psalms 139:16 NLT paraphrase

You saw me before I was born.

Every day of my life was recorded in your book.

Every moment was laid out

before a single day had passed.

But people say, “It’s *my* body. I have a right to do whatever I want.” NO! Wrong. Not true. Why? Our bodies have been bought with a price.

1 Corinthians 6:19-20 NKJV

Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? <sup>20</sup> For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God’s.

## **2. The second reason has to do with the reason for suffering.**

Consider that, although man is concerned about his present comfort, God is concerned about his eternal state. Never forget this. You see, if these people of Revelation 9 had the “right to die,” they would not have seen the angel fly across the sky preaching salvation. They would not have heard the 144,000 call for repentance. All in all it won’t be God’s meanness that will keep them from killing themselves. It will be His mercy.

Think of it this way—the world says, “Eat, drink, and be merry, for tomorrow you die. And if you can’t eat drink and be merry, then die today.” But this is a lie because we don’t die tomorrow. We move into eternity.

Jon Courson says, “It’s the loss of a loved one, the struggle with cancer, the dealing with depression, the ageing of the body that causes people to say, “I had better develop a relationship with God, or I’m not going to make it through this tribulation.” In so doing, they are strengthened and deepened. The people you admire most, the people who impact you the greatest are undoubtedly those who have gone through “the fellowship of suffering” (Philippians 3:10).”

Consider the following example: walking through the bush, you see a cocoon hanging from a tree. Upon closer examination, you see it move. “The butterfly is trying to get out,” you say. “He’s struggling. He must be hurting. Poor butterfly.” And so, in the name of compassion, you take out your pocket knife and clip the bottom of the cocoon, causing the butterfly to fall to the ground. You’re so proud. After all, you saved him from the struggle and pain of breaking out of his cocoon. But now look at him. He’s dead—because the wings of a butterfly are strengthened only through struggle. In robbing the butterfly of the opportunity to struggle, you also robbed it of the opportunity to fly.

“I’m just trying to put her out of her misery,” someone might say. *But there’s a struggle going on in that person’s soul that will cause her to fly eternally. Do we really have any right to interfere.*

“But he seems to know so little.” Ah, but you cannot see what God is doing in his soul, in the deepest recess of his being. How much do we really know?

I am not arguing that we should sustain life when the time to die arrives. But to assume that we have the right to shorten a life span is biblically and morally wrong.

Another quote from Jon Courson:

“Life isn’t easy, gang. There are sad times. There are struggles. But don’t short-circuit them because those times will make you rich in heaven. It’s all about eternity, precious people. Don’t lose sight of that. There are bigger issues than comfort and ease and freedom from pain. Be wise in these last days.”

## Revision

Last week we covered chapters 8 and 9 in Revelation where we saw everything in Heaven simply stop after the seventh seal was opened. The prayers of all the saints were ascending to the throne of God and it was time for all those prayers of “how long O Lord, Holy and True, until You judge and avenge our blood on those who dwell on the earth” (Revelation 6:10).

Revelation 6:10 NKJV

And they cried with a loud voice, saying, “How long, O Lord, holy and true, until You judge and avenge our blood on those who dwell on the earth?”

The world has a lot to answer for as it continues to persecute and kill God’s messengers and also reject the message of the good news of the gospel, and here we see God really starting to specifically judge the world for its evil. Thus we have the first 6 trumpet judgements.

So let’s quickly revise what has happened since the start of the tribulation in chapter 6. The chronology of the book is carried forward by three series of judgements. First there was the 7 seal judgements. The title deed to the earth was sealed with seven seals, and each time Jesus would break a seal and there would be a judgement, the first one being the revealing and rise of the antichrist. Then, when Jesus opened the seventh seal, that opened up a new series of judgments, telescopically, called the trumpet judgements. The trumpet judgements are much worse than the seal judgements. Whereas in the seal judgements God judged the earth by fourths (for example, a fourth of mankind was wiped up during the seal judgements), in the trumpet judgements, God deals with the earth in thirds. Here is a summary of the first 6 trumpet judgements we covered last week in Revelation 8-9:

1. 1/3 of the trees destroyed and all the grass/grain
2. 1/3 of the seas or oceans struck or destroyed
3. 1/3 of the fresh water sources struck or poisoned
4. 1/3 of the heavens struck (sun, moon and stars partially darkened)
5. The Locusts from the Bottomless Pit that cause torment for 5 months
6. The four angels from the Euphrates river and their demonic army of 200,000,000 that kill 1/3 of the remaining people.

## Revelation 10—The Great Angel and the Little Book

Now in Revelation Chapter 10 we come to another vignette, a story or explanation of people, events and organisations that play a role during the tribulation. Here is a quick summary of Revelation chapter 10:

A mighty angel proclaims Jesus imminent return, declaring that the earth would soon be under new, divine, management and that all prophecies would be fulfilled (see Daniel 9:24). Also, John is given the little book (scroll) to eat, both bitter and sweet. Sweet promises of salvation for those who believe, but bitter promises of judgement for those who don’t— it’s not an easy message to share.

Consider that the timing of this is most likely toward the end of the 7 years. The seal judgements have already happened, and the first six trumpet judgements are also completed. All that is left is the seven bowl judgements which are orders of magnitude more horrible and horrific than even the trumpet judgements. It's good to remember what Jesus said in:

Matthew 24:21-22 NKJV

For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been since the beginning of the world until this time, no, nor ever shall be. <sup>22</sup> **And unless those days were shortened, no flesh would be saved; but for the elect's sake those days will be shortened.**

What is so bad about the last part of the tribulation? Well, the last seven judgements instead of being partial judgements (e.g. a third of the ocean is destroyed), they concern the whole earth—all the people who have received the mark of the beast suffer from foul and loathsome sores, all oceans turn to blood, **all** the fresh water turns to blood, **all** men are scorched by a super hot sun, and then the **whole** world suffers the worst earthquake in history and the largest hail in history.

Think about it. The ecology has been destroyed. How will man survive if all the oceans are destroyed, all the fresh water is poisoned, and anything green is burned up by a super hot sun? No wonder Jesus said, **“And unless those days were shortened, no flesh would be saved...”**

All these things are preparations for Jesus return. Maranatha — come quickly Lord Jesus!

Let's start by reading the chapter.

Revelation 10:1-11 NKJV

I saw still another mighty angel coming down from heaven, clothed with a cloud. And a rainbow was on his head, his face was like the sun, and his feet like pillars of fire. <sup>2</sup> He had a little book open in his hand. And he set his right foot on the sea and his left foot on the land, <sup>3</sup> and cried with a loud voice, as when a lion roars. When he cried out, seven thunders uttered their voices. <sup>4</sup> Now when the seven thunders uttered their voices, I was about to write; but I heard a voice from heaven saying to me, “Seal up the things which the seven thunders uttered, and do not write them.”

<sup>5</sup> The angel whom I saw standing on the sea and on the land raised up his hand to heaven <sup>6</sup> and swore by Him who lives forever and ever, who created heaven and the things that are in it, the earth and the things that are in it, and the sea and the things that are in it, that there should be delay no longer, <sup>7</sup> but in the days of the sounding of the seventh angel, when he is about to sound, the mystery of God would be finished, as He declared to His servants the prophets.

<sup>8</sup> Then the voice which I heard from heaven spoke to me again and said, “Go, take the little book which is open in the hand of the angel who stands on the sea and on the earth.”

<sup>9</sup> So I went to the angel and said to him, “Give me the little book.”

And he said to me, “Take and eat it; and it will make your stomach bitter, but it will be as sweet as honey in your mouth.”

<sup>10</sup> Then I took the little book out of the angel's hand and ate it, and it was as sweet as honey in my mouth. But when I had eaten it, my stomach became bitter.

<sup>11</sup> And he said to me, “You must prophesy again about many peoples, nations, tongues, and kings.”

### **Revelation 10:1 NKJV**

**I saw still another mighty angel coming down from heaven, clothed with a cloud. And a rainbow was on his head, his face was like the sun, and his feet like pillars of fire.**

Who is this angel? It sounds like Jesus, and some commentators think that it is, but I don't think it is. Why? Because Jesus comes back at the end of the seven years, and He comes back with the saints, the church.

Also, consider that this angel had just come from the presence of God. Moses' face shone after he had been in the presence of God for 40 days and nights on Mt Sinai, so it shouldn't surprise us that the angels also start to glow and radiate God's glory after being in His presence.

However, the main reason is the text itself. **"I saw still another mighty angel."** It's another of the same kind. As I said before regarding the angel in Revelation 8:3, there is only one Jesus, and there can't be another of Him, another of the same kind.

Some have suggested that this angel is Michael, because the description matches that of Michael the Archangel in Daniel 12:1, 5-6.

This just goes to show just how mighty and powerful these angels are. We don't want to mess with them, even the fallen angels.

What does the rainbow represent? The rainbow is a reminder that God graciously keeps His promises. What promises? The promise to avenge the death of His saints, the promise to return and set up His kingdom, the promise that we will rule and reign with Him, and the promise to restore Israel to their land in righteousness and true peace.

What do **"the feet like pillars of fire"** represent? They represent judgement. And truly there is and will be judgement for those living on the earth who refuse to repent.

### **Revelation 10:2 NKJV**

**<sup>2</sup> He had a little book open in his hand. And he set his right foot on the sea and his left foot on the land,**

What is this little book? We will answer this question at the end.

**He set his right foot on the sea and his left foot on the land:** The angel's stance projects his authority over both land and sea. He is signifying that he has been given authority over the whole world, both the land and the oceans, that all things were under his feet. Any ambassador goes in all the authority of the person who sent them.

### **Revelation 10:3 NKJV**

**<sup>3</sup> and cried with a loud voice, as when a lion roars. When he cried out, seven thunders uttered their voices. <sup>4</sup> Now when the seven thunders uttered their voices, I was about to write; but I heard a voice from heaven saying to me, "Seal up the things which the seven thunders uttered, and do not write them."**

We have no idea what the seven thunders spoke, but some have taken it upon themselves to claim that Jesus revealed it to them. For example, Ellen G. White, founder of the Seventh Day Adventist movement. She has much to say about what

these voices uttered. So do the Mormons and many other cults who have built entire doctrines upon this mysterious section of Revelation 10.

**Application:** Remember that God hasn't revealed everything to us. There will be times in our lives when God will ask us to walk by faith, to trust Him, even when we don't understand what is happening or why it is happening. We must humbly accept that we don't know everything, and so must humbly obey and accept what God tells us even if we don't know or understand what God is doing.

### **Revelation 10:5-7 NKJV**

**<sup>5</sup> The angel whom I saw standing on the sea and on the land raised up his hand to heaven <sup>6</sup> and swore by Him who lives forever and ever, who created heaven and the things that are in it, the earth and the things that are in it, and the sea and the things that are in it, that there should be delay no longer, <sup>7</sup> but in the days of the sounding of the seventh angel, when he is about to sound, the mystery of God would be finished, as He declared to His servants the prophets.**

v **6 and swore by Him who lives forever and ever, who created heaven and the things that are in it, the earth and the things that are in it, and the sea and the things that are in it, ...** this is further evidence that this is only an angel and not Jesus. Why? Because, if it was Jesus, He would swear by Himself because there is no one greater to swear by. Consider:

Hebrews 6:13-14 NLT paraphrase

For example, there was God's promise to Abraham. Since there was no one greater to swear by, God took an oath in his own name, saying:

<sup>14</sup> "I will certainly bless you, and I will multiply your descendants beyond number."

Hebrews 6:13-14 is referring to the passage in Genesis 22 where God has told Abraham to sacrifice Isaac, and just as Abraham was about to plunge the knife into his son, Jesus stops him and speaks to him:

Genesis 22:15-17a NKJV

<sup>15</sup> Then **the Angel of the Lord** called to Abraham a second time out of heaven, <sup>16</sup> and said: "**By Myself I have sworn, says the Lord**, because you have done this thing, and have not withheld your son, your only son—<sup>17</sup> blessing **I will bless you**, and multiplying **I will multiply** your descendants..."

Notice how Jesus in this Old Testament appearance to Abraham swears by Himself, because He is God, and there is no one greater. But in Revelation 10:6, the angel swears by God in Heaven, the Creator of all things.

What is the oath referring to?

v **6-7 that there should be delay no longer, <sup>7</sup> but in the days of the sounding of the seventh angel, when he is about to sound, the mystery of God would be finished...**

# The mystery of God would be finished

Now what does it mean by “**The mystery of God would be finished**” in verse 7? There are three questions we need to ask here:

1. ***What does the bible mean by a mystery?***
  2. ***What mystery is this referring to, and***
  3. ***What timeframe are we talking about, or when will this mystery be finished.***
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## **1. What does the bible mean by a mystery?**

I think David Guzik puts it well:

“In Biblical vocabulary, a **mystery** isn’t something no one knows. A **mystery** is something no one *could* know unless it was revealed to him. If you could know it by intuition or personal investigation, it isn’t a mystery, because mysteries must be *revealed*. Therefore, something can be *known* and still be a **mystery** in the Biblical sense.”

Here are some examples of mysteries in the New Testament:

- The ultimate conversion of the Jewish people is called a mystery (Romans 11:25)
- God’s purpose for the church is called a mystery (Ephesians 3:3–11)
- The bringing in of the fullness of the Gentiles is called a mystery (Romans 11:25)
- The living presence of Jesus in the believer is called the mystery of God (Colossians 1:27–2:3)
- The gospel itself is called the mystery of Christ (Colossians 4:3)

## **2. What mystery or revelation is the angel referring to here?”**

One important aspect of this mystery is that it has been **declared to His servants the prophets**, meaning that it was revealed to the prophets in the old testament. So, most likely, in this context, **the mystery of God** probably refers to the many Old Testament passages which speak of the establishment of the kingdom of God on earth where the Messiah physically rules and reigns on the earth. The kingdom of God on earth is the 1,000 year or Millennial reign of Jesus on earth where Jesus rules the nations with a rod of iron or absolute authority and righteousness is enforced. Individuals will be free to make up their own minds as to whether or not they follow or believe in Jesus, but the nations will not be able to rebel against Jesus. There will be peace throughout the entire earth and the earth will be a paradise just like the garden of Eden was.

## **3. What timeframe are we talking about, or when will this mystery be finished.**

The third question is, “when will this happen?” What is the time frame? Well it happens in **the days of the sounding of the seventh angel**. This indicates that it will be after a period of time. To see where the 7th angel blows or sounds their trumpet we need to go to:

Revelation 11:15 NKJV

Then the seventh angel sounded: And there were loud voices in heaven, saying, “The kingdoms of this world have become the kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ, and He shall reign forever and ever!”



Basically what this means is that Jesus return to the earth to rule and reign is both now inevitable and imminent. God often speaks of things not yet done as being already done, because once God says something will happen, it's as good as done.

Remember how the judgements are telescopic? The seventh seal judgement opened up the 7 trumpet judgements, and here, the seventh trumpet judgement opens up the 7 bowl judgements, and in these 7 bowl judgements Jesus will wrap up or complete all the necessary preparations that will finish the Tribulation period and open the way for Jesus to return. Revelation 15:1 makes this clear:

Revelation 15:1 NKJV

Then I saw another sign in heaven, great and marvellous: seven angels having the seven last plagues, for in them the wrath of God is complete.

Notice that it's in the seven last plagues that the wrath of God, the judgement of God on a wicked world, is complete, meaning finished, meaning that it's time for Jesus to return to the earth. *So in summary, the "delay no longer" refers to the imminent pouring out of the seven bowl judgements which are the final act in God's judgment of a rebellious world and prepare the way for Jesus second coming.*

## The Little Book

Revelation 10:8-11 NKJV

**<sup>8</sup> Then the voice which I heard from heaven spoke to me again and said, "Go, take the little book which is open in the hand of the angel who stands on the sea and on the earth."**

**<sup>9</sup> So I went to the angel and said to him, "Give me the little book."**

**And he said to me, "Take and eat it; and it will make your stomach bitter, but it will be as sweet as honey in your mouth."**

**<sup>10</sup> Then I took the little book out of the angel's hand and ate it, and it was as sweet as honey in my mouth. But when I had eaten it, my stomach became bitter.**

**<sup>11</sup> And he said to me, "You must prophesy again about many peoples, nations, tongues, and kings."**

What is this little book? It is most likely **not** the title deed to the earth as Jesus has that in heaven. Why? Because John uses different words to describe the scroll in Revelation 5:1, the title deed to the earth. The scriptures simply don't tell us what it was or what was written in it. However, it would probably be similar to the book of Revelation, containing the sweetness of Jesus' victory and soon return, but the bitterness of judgement for those who don't believe. We'll come back to this thought later.

In verse 9 it says, **"Take and eat it...."** John was commanded to **take the little book from the *mighty angel* and actually eat it.**

Why do you think God asked John to eat the little book? The answer is given in verse 11. **"You must prophesy again about many peoples, nations, tongues, and kings."** Most likely the little book contained the message that Jesus wanted Him to speak, which is basically the book of Revelation.

There is another example of God asking a prophet to eat a book or scroll, and that is Ezekiel in the book of Ezekiel 3:1-3, 14. And the command is the same:

Ezekiel 3:1-4, 14 NKJV

Moreover He said to me, "Son of man, eat what you find; eat this scroll, and go, speak to the house of Israel." <sup>2</sup> So I opened my mouth, and He caused me to eat that scroll.

<sup>3</sup> And He said to me, "Son of man, feed your belly, and fill your stomach with this scroll that I give you." So I ate, and it was in my mouth like honey in sweetness.

<sup>4</sup> Then He said to me: "Son of man, go to the house of Israel and speak with My words to them.

<sup>14</sup> The Spirit lifted me up and took me away. I went in bitterness and turmoil, but the Lord's hold on me was strong.

So both John and Ezekiel were told to eat the message that they were to give to the people. Both found it sweet to taste, but bitter in the end. Here are some reasons why it's sweet to the mouth, but bitter in the stomach:

1. As well as showing God's mercy and victory over evil, sin, and death, it also reveals God's judgement on a wicked world, which is a difficult message to deliver.
2. It shows that some people will be saved and some people won't, and those who won't will make life very difficult for those sharing God's message.
3. Generally speaking, the word of God not only shows us the benefits of who we are in Christ, but also reveals to us that our sin nature is pure evil—it reveals our sinful condition. Consider:

Hebrews 4:12-13 AMP

For the Word that God speaks is alive and full of power [making it active, operative, energising, and effective]; it is sharper than any two-edged sword, penetrating to the dividing line of the breath of life (soul) and [the immortal] spirit, and of joints and marrow [of the deepest parts of our nature], exposing and sifting and analysing and judging the very thoughts and purposes of the heart.

<sup>13</sup> And not a creature exists that is concealed from His sight, but all things are open and exposed, naked and defenceless to the eyes of Him with Whom we have to do.

### **Application: We need to be people of the book.**

The picture of eating the little book is symbolic for feeding on the Word of God. We can only proclaim or give out the Word of God if we first take it in. The word must first become a part of us as we study it, meditate on it, and memorise it. Only then will we be confident and effective in sharing God's message, the gospel, with those around us.

*We look around and see people who devour or are consumed by books, or video games or sports or leisure activities, but the Christian should be characterised by being one who devours or is consumed by the study of the Word of God. The new or baby christian feeds on the milk, but then grows up and is able to feed on the meat of the word. We will never grow up if we don't feed on the Word of God. As we finish by reading the following scriptures, notice the link between overcoming the sinful nature (growing up) and reading the word of God.*

1 Corinthians 3:1-3 NLT paraphrase

Dear brothers and sisters, when I was with you I couldn't talk to you as I would to spiritual people. I had to talk as though you belonged to this world or as though you were infants in Christ. <sup>2</sup> **I had to feed you with milk, not with solid food, because you weren't ready for anything stronger. And you still aren't ready,** <sup>3</sup> **for you are still controlled by your sinful nature.** You are jealous of one another and quarrel with each other. Doesn't that prove you are controlled by your sinful nature? Aren't you living like people of the world?

## Hebrews 5:11-14 NLT paraphrase

There is much more we would like to say about this, but it is difficult to explain, especially since you are spiritually dull and don't seem to listen. <sup>12</sup> You have been believers so long now that you ought to be teaching others. Instead, you need someone to teach you again the basic things about God's word. You are like babies who need milk and cannot eat solid food. <sup>13</sup> **For someone who lives on milk is still an infant and doesn't know how to do what is right.** <sup>14</sup> **Solid food is for those who are mature, who through training have the skill to recognise the difference between right and wrong.**

## 1 Peter 2:1-3 AMP

So be done with every trace of wickedness (depravity, malignity) and all deceit and insincerity (pretense, hypocrisy) and grudges (envy, jealousy) and slander and evil speaking of every kind.

**2 Like newborn babies you should crave (thirst for, earnestly desire) the pure (unadulterated) spiritual milk, that by it you may be nurtured and grow unto [completed] salvation,**

3 Since you have [already] tasted the goodness and kindness of the Lord. [Ps. 34:8.]

*Notice that what we crave is our decision.* We can choose to crave or desire TV, Netflix, video games, sports, recreation, alcohol and drugs, sex, fame, a good reputation, money, or, we can choose to crave or desire God, and we will find Him as we study or "eat" the Word of God and it becomes a part of us. We are the ones who set our own priorities. If you want to know what your priorities are, simply take the time to see how you use the time that God has given you. It's never that we don't have the time to do something, but simply that it's not as important to us as the things we are already doing.

## **Concluding though for today:**

The word of God is God's revelation of Himself to us. The Word of God is food for the soul and will make us strong. Always remember to pray before you read, asking God to give us understanding, so we come to the bible with the right attitude—humility. We need to remember that the bible is a spiritually discerned book and that only the Holy Spirit can reveal spiritual truth to us (1 Corinthians 2:13-14). Remember—read the Bible prayerfully, and pray according to the Bible.