

Back to the basics

Text: 1 Peter 2:2



Hi everybody,

In just over two weeks it is Christmas. For pastors and leaders this is a busy time of the year as we seek to find new and innovative ways of presenting the Gospel to our members and especially to those wanting to know more about God. Let's face it the task at hand is not always an easy one. In fact if we are really honest with ourselves we would admit that most of us have got only a certain number of messages to preach on certain topics and we tend to repeat ourselves too often. I feel this way especially during December; how many ways are there to talk about Christmas and New Year?

On the other hand I have also found that in preaching there are certain themes in the Bible that we need to return to again and again. Sometimes it might even feel as though we're saying what's already been said by others so many times before and that might very well be true (King Solomon reminds us in Ecclesiastes 1:9 that there is nothing new under the sun). The point I am so desperately trying to make is that it is OK, at least to a certain extent. I have noticed in my own life and even in the life of others that we humans are very forgetful and therefore need to be *reminded* more often than we need to be *instructed*.

That is why I am so glad that the Vision of the Swedish Union of "Growing Together" for the next period (2009-2013) has the emphasis on *reminding* us of the basics. Returning to the simple topics of how to pray and have a functioning devotional life (prayer and Bible Study the themes for 2010), the importance of loving others and sharing your faith (evangelism the theme we have had for 2009 and will return to 2013), the importance of community and fellowship (the church the theme for 2012), the importance of family and friends (family the theme for 2011), accepting God's forgiveness and forgiving others (the overarching theme of the Bible) – these are things we need to be reminded of again and again. Peter reminds us that, ***"Like newborn babes, long for the pure milk of the Word that by it you may grow in respect to salvation"*** (1 Peter 2:2). So while milk is considered by many to be food for beginners, I believe as a Christian we never really get past the need for milk – the need for the basics of the Christian life.

So just remember, while it is important for us to strive always to be fresh in our approach to presenting the gospel, we must also remember that our members (and we ourselves) need to hear those same wonderful truths again and again – they never lose their power.

God bless and good luck in your preparation for Christmas and New year.

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