

**RELIGIOUS STUDIES BRAIN BAG LUNCH
COLLOQUIUM SERIES**

**THE REFERENT OF “YOU HAVE TASTED”
IN 1 PETER 2:3**

Fika J. van Rensburg
Dean, Faculty of Theology
North-West University



Friday, February 24, 2012
12:30 – 1:30 pm
Ashe Building 511

In 1 Peter 2:2-3 the addressees are exhorted to “yearn for the unadulterated milk of God’s word ... like newborn babies.” This exhortation is motivated by the author’s statement that the addressees “have tasted that the Lord is good.” This paper attempts to establish the referent of “you have tasted.” Viewed as part of the “rebegetting” and resultant new birth (cf. 1 Pet 1:3), 1 Peter 2:3 suggests that God has given the “newborn babies” something to sustain them in their salvation. The paper explores what the implicit object of “you have tasted” is, and how this implicit object is part of the begetting/rebirth process.

Prof. Dr. Fika J. van Rensburg is Dean of the Faculty of Theology at North-West University in Potchefstroom, South Africa, where he has been Professor of New Testament since 1983. He also serves as chair of the multi-institutional Forum for University Theological Education in South Africa, and is co-chair of an international research project dealing with early Christianity and the ancient economy, with particular interest in the potential implications of the project’s findings for modern South African society and its economic development. His current research focuses on the economy and soteriology of 1 Peter.