

2 Peter 1:12-21

***Transitioning from the work of God to the Word of God.

I. **V.12-15 – Persistent remembrance**

A. V.12 – “*For this reason*” (v.8-11 – the results/consequences of not growing spiritually), Peter says he would not be negligent (careless not to care) to remind (to continually refresh) them *always* of the things they already knew & were established (strong; firm) in – 1 Cor. 15:58; Eph. 4:11-16; Heb. 13:9; James 1:5-6.

1) ***Why would Peter be so concerned with telling them he was going to be diligent in telling them things they already knew???***

a) **Forgetfulness** – v.12, 13 &15; 3:1-18 = remind; John 14:26; 2 Thess. 2:1-5; Deut. 8:10-20; 31:20; 32:15-17; Jer. 2:32.

b) **Fundamentals** – We need to be grounded in what we know – Phil. 3:1; 1 Pet. 3:15; **1 John 2:18-26**; Col. 4:6; Prov. 15:28.

i) *Don't practice until you get it right; practice until you can't get it wrong.* – Nick Saban

ii) Don't read & study Scripture until you understand it; read it and study it until you can't forget it – Ps. 37:30-31; 119:11.

iii) ***Extreme caution must be taken to ensure we're grounded & established in what we do know before moving onto “bigger & better” things spiritually speaking – Heb. 5:12.***

c) **Focus** – emphasize what's most important – 2 Tim. 4:1-5; John 21:15-23; Luke 22:32.

d) **V.13 – Personal conviction** – Peter understood it to be the right thing to do as long as he was alive to keep stirring them up by reminding them – Gal. 4:18.

i) Stir you up = to fully awaken; fan into flame; to shake back & forth – Rom. 13:11-14.

ii) How do you fan something into a flame???

- 1) Adding more fuel to the fire & keep blowing on it = keep speaking God's truth into people's lives.
- e) **V.14 – 15 – Urgency** – Peter's time on earth was running out & with it the opportunity to teach the things they needed to be grounded in: *the church needed to be properly prepared personally and corporately* – 1 Tim. 4:16; 2 Cor. 6:1-2.

II. Peter's first order of business

A. V.16-18 – The resurrection & return of Jesus Christ.

- 1) Cunningly devised fables = sinister wisdom; myths: what they evidently were being accused of.
 - a) They were eyewitnesses of His **majesty** = glory or splendor; royalty or sovereignty; His transfiguration (Matt. 17; Mark 9; Luke 9) = foreshadowing of His death, return & eternal kingdom (Matt. 16:28; Mark 9:1, 10-11; Luke 9:27, 30-31).
 - b) They witnessed (both seeing and hearing) the power & coming of the Messiah; God Himself (John 1); His works/miracles: His death, burial & resurrection (1 Cor. 15) = ***Pretty good testimony/affirmation to believe what you believe.***

B. V.19-21 – the word of God (**Power point slides**).

- 1) V.19 – *“And so we have the prophetic word confirmed...”*
 - a) The fulfillment of Old Testament Scripture had been accomplished through what they saw & heard for themselves in Jesus – Luke 24:27; Heb. 1:1-3.
- 2) V.19 – *“...which you do well to heed as a light that shines in a dark place...”*
 - a) The validity of the word is what Peter said Christians should accept as a light shining amidst the darkness; i.e. it points us in the right direction; gives clarity to confusion = false doctrine; illuminates the darkness – Ps. 119:105.

- 3) V.19 – “...until the day dawns and the morning star arises”
- a) Until Christ returns...Until everything predicted comes true... until the end occurs...heed the word!!! – Deut. 4:9; 1 Tim. 4:16
 - b) The promise of Christ’s return shines brighter and brighter as the world grows darker and darker – Num. 24:17; Is. 9:2; 42:6-7; 49:6; 60:19-20; Matt. 4:15-16; Luke 1:76-79; Rev. 22:16.
- 4) V.20 – “knowing ***this first*** (**His** truth is priority), *that no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation (origins; loosing).”*
- a) **The interpretation/origins of the Bible aren’t a matter of personal opinion; i.e. “loosing” what one person thinks it means vs. another (book club mentality) = what false prophets do.**
 - b) **How do we know the proper interpretation of Scripture? = CONTEXT: no Scripture can be fully understood apart from the rest. Scripture interprets Scripture.**
 - i) *“You can use the Bible to prove almost anything if you isolate verses from their proper context, which is exactly the approach false teachers use...Isolated texts, apart from contexts become pretexts.” – Warren Wiersbe*
- 5) V.21 – “for prophecy never came by the will of man...”
- a) Prophecy/God’s word was never about the conjuring’s of human thought; that’s impossible!!
 - b) God spoke through human vessels to achieve holy purpose.
 - i) ***If they weren’t grounded in the two very basic, fundamentals of the Christian faith, they would be easy targets to those peddling false doctrine.***

ii) *If they could get the Christians to start doubting the basics, they could get them to believe anything – 1 Cor. 15:33.*