



# Remembering Truth When it Really Counts

*“... a primer to  
guard against false  
teaching by...”*

## Understanding Our Scriptures (1:12–21) Our Reminder, Our Eyewitnesses & Inspiration



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# Understanding Our Scriptures

## 2 Peter 1:12-21

12 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. 13 I consider it right, as long as I am in this earthly dwelling, to stir you up by way of reminder, 14 knowing that the laying aside of my earthly dwelling is imminent, as also our Lord Jesus Christ has made clear to me. 15 And I will also be diligent that at any time after my departure you will be able to call these things to mind. *(Our Reminder)*

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16 For we did not follow cleverly devised tales when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses of His majesty. 17 For when He received honor and glory from God the Father, such an [a]utterance as this was made to Him by the Majestic Glory, “This is My beloved Son with whom I am well-pleased”— 18 and we ourselves heard this utterance made from heaven when we were with Him on the holy mountain. *(Our Eyewitnesses)*

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19 So we have the prophetic word made more sure, to which you do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star arises in your hearts. 20 But know this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture is a matter of one’s own interpretation, 21 for no prophecy was ever made by an act of human will, but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God. *(Our Inspiration)*

# A Remembrance of God's Basic Truths (1 Pet. 1:12-15)

**Our Objective:** What does God want us  
to learn?

God's plan for His people has never changed.  
It is that we be constantly focusing on the  
Truth that God has given.

We need nothing new.

We need nothing more.

We need nothing else.

We need constant reminders of the Word.

# Our Reminder (1:12-15)

## A Remembrance of God's Basic Truths

*12 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. 13 I consider it right, as long as I am in this earthly dwelling, to stir you up by way of reminder, 14 knowing that the laying aside of my earthly dwelling is imminent, as also our Lord Jesus Christ has made clear to me. 15 And I will also be diligent that at any time after my departure you will be able to call these things to mind.*

This brief interlude between 1:3-11 and 1:16-21 serves several purposes:

- It points back to what Peter has already written in 3-11, while encouraging his readers that they “know” “these things” that he gives by way of reminder.
- It serves as a bridge to the body of the letter, namely 2:1 ff (regarding false prophets)
- It somewhat sets up the entire letter as a last will and testament.

## Our Reminder (1:12-15)

- In Jewish ancient times as here, there was a tradition of writing that follows the form of a last testament. For illustration and discussion, see [Gen. 49:1-28 \(Jacob\)](#); [Deut. 33:1-29 \(Moses\)](#); [Joshua 24:1-28 \(Joshua\)](#); [1 Kings 2:1-9 \(David\)](#); [Luke 22:14-36 \(Jesus\)](#); [2 Tim. 4:1-8 \(Paul\)](#).
- What are some of the common elements of these testaments/farewells?
  1. A prediction of one's death
  2. A prediction of a future crisis
  3. Encouragement to continue on
  4. Need for hearers to remember teaching
  5. Blessing



## Our Reminder (1:12-15)

- As far as vv. 12-15 is concerned, the key word is Remember. Peter is going to place a strong emphasis on his responsibility to remind these believers of Biblical Doctrine and of their responsibility to Remember it!

The theme of remembrance is illuminated by Scripture:

- Jesus told the Twelve,  
“Remember the word that I said unto you” (John 15:20)
- Paul told the Ephesian elders  
“Remember the words of the Lord Jesus” (Acts 20:35)



## Our Reminder (1:12-15)

- Peter said to the Jerusalem church  
“*Then remembered I the word of the Lord*” (Acts 11:16)
- When Jesus was risen from the dead  
“*His disciples remembered that he had said...*” (John 2:22)
- Jude told his readers,  
“*I will, therefore, put you in remembrance...*” (Jude 5)
- Peter says, “*I now write to you....by way remembrance*”  
(2 Pet. 3:1)
  - We need reminders, even of things we already know!
  - If you look and turn away, you'll forget what you saw. But if you look and continue to look, you'll remember what you say. That is why it is important to be reminded about remembering

## Our Reminder (1:12-15)

- Well established and don't need a reminder? Review and discuss Paul's call to remembrance of Timothy (2 Tim. 1:6-9, 12-15; 2:14-16, 21-24; 3:13-14; 4:1-5, 16).
- From these passages, list some of your observations about Timothy.

- *Preparation — by his mother; Paul; God*
- *Possible challenge — seemed ashamed of the Lord; Paul*
- *Possible challenge — seemed unwilling to preach w/ power*
- *Possible challenge — seemed vacillating in doctrine*
- *Other considerations?*





## Our Reminder (1:12-15)

*12 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.*

- Who needs to be reminded of the Truth?  
“You” - Believers (v. 12).
- The word “therefore” - Looks back and builds on what he has said in the first 11 verses that give us a summary of Christian doctrine: “these things”
  - Salvation’s sufficiency - The Believer’s Inheritance (vs. 3-4)
  - Salvation’s service – The Believer’s Fruitfulness (vs. 5-9)
  - Salvation’s surety – The Believer’s Assurance (vs. 10-11)

## Our Reminder (1:12-15)

Now, beginning with verse 12, and down to verse 21, the focus is going to be on the importance of God's Word as the foundation and center of our lives as God's people.

- *Therefore, I will always be ready to remind you of these things..."* How can Peter be always reminding them (present tense) when he knows that he is soon going to die (v. 14)?
- The idea of reminding will be mentioned 4 more times in this letter (1:13, 15, 3:1,2). Peter is essentially saying: "You already know these things, but it is essential that we go over them again and again". Perfect tense denotes something that has happened in the past, but the results continue in the present. The value of Repetition. (Phil. 3:1; Rom. 15:15; Jude 5; 1 John 2:21; Synoptic Gospels; Psalms)

## Our Reminder (1:12-15)

Not only do they “know these things”, they have been “established in the truth”. What does “established mean?” To strengthen or firm stability What sort of things establish believers, churches in Jesus Christ? (Acts 2:42; 1 Tim. 3:15)

*They know Truth*

13 I consider it right, as long as I am in this earthly dwelling, to stir you up by way of reminder,

Why do we need to be reminded of Truth? (vs. 13-15)

## Our Reminder (1:12-15)

- Peter says it is his God-given responsibility and obligation as a servant of Jesus Christ to constantly remind them of God's Word. For how long?  
"As long as I am living in this body" (2 Cor. 5:1-4)
- Spurgeon writes... *When people are as they should be, it is worth while to stir them up. You do not want to stir up dirty water, but you may stir that which is pure and sweet as much as every you like. And a good fire sometimes becomes a better one by a little stirring up.*
- "to stir up" – carries the idea of awakening someone.  
Peter wants to keep them Spiritually alert.
- It is the rightful role of Shepherds (Acts 20:20; Eph. 4:11-16)
- How does he refer to his body in verse 13?

## Our Reminder (1:12-15)

14 knowing that the laying aside of my earthly dwelling is imminent, as also our Lord Jesus Christ has made clear to me.

- Peter sensed an urgency to remind believers. Why? He knew his death was imminent (See John 21:18-19) What can we learn from Peter's attitude to death?

*In view of the brevity of his life and ministry, Peter was relentlessly diligent to remind believers of the truth. (Biblical view of death)*



## Our Reminder (1:12-15)

15 And I will also be diligent that at any time after my departure you will be able to call these things to mind.

- Peter used the term “departure” – what does it mean? Exodos – leaving one place (earth) to go to another (heaven)

(1 Cor. 15:50-57; Heb. 4:9-10; Acts 20:24)

- “To call these things to mind” – To use an educational term, Peter wants his readers to “Over learn” the Basic Truths so that after his death they will never forget them.