

2 Peter 1:12-21

Remembering Truth When it Really Counts ***“...a primer to guard against false teaching”*** **Understanding our Scriptures (Part 1)**

Our Reminder (1:12-15)

Questions for Discussion & Reflection

Answer the following questions and please be prepared to share with the larger group...

1. What is the value of repetition when it relates to the Word of God?
2. In spite of all the warnings and reminders through the centuries, how would you rate Israel's memory? (Isa. 17:10; Hos 8:7-14)
3. Why did Peter want to go on reminding people of these things, when he says that they know them and are already established in the presence of the truth?
4. If you knew God would take you home tomorrow, what would be your last will and testament?

Understanding Our Scriptures (1:12-21)

- Our Reminder (1:12-15) – To Remember
- Our Eyewitnesses (1:16-18) - The Apostles
- Our Inspiration (1:19-21) – The Holy Spirit

Today's Learning Objective:

God's plan for His people has never changed. It is that we be constantly focusing on the _____ that God has given. We need nothing _____. We need nothing _____. We need nothing _____. We need constant reminders of the _____.

A Remembrance of God's Basic Truths (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. 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.

I. The Ministry of Remembrance (1:12-15)

- a. This brief interlude between 1:3-11 and 1:16-21 serves several purposes:
 - i. It points back to what Peter has already written in 3-11, while encouraging his readers that they “_____” “_____” that he gives by way of reminder.
 - ii. It serves as a bridge to the body of the letter, namely 2:1ff (regarding _____)
 - iii. It somewhat sets up the entire letter as a last _____.
- b. 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).
 - i. What are some of the common elements of these testaments/farewells?
 1. _____
 2. _____
 3. _____
 4. _____
 5. _____
- c. As far as vv. 12-15 is concerned, the key word is _____. Peter is going to place a strong emphasis on his responsibility to remind these believers of _____ and of their responsibility to _____!
- d. The theme of remembrance is illuminated by Scripture:
 - i. Jesus told the Twelve, “_____” (John 15:20)
 - ii. Paul told the Ephesian elders “_____” (Acts 20:35)
 - iii. Peter said to the Jerusalem church “_____” (Acts 11:16)
 - iv. When Jesus was risen from the dead “_____” (John 2:22)
 - v. Jude told his readers, “_____” (Jude 5)
 - vi. Peter says, “_____” (2 Pet. 3:1)

We need reminders, even of things we already know!

e. 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).

i. From these passages, list some of your observations about Timothy.

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

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.

f. Who needs to be reminded of the Truth? _____ (v. 12).

g. The word "therefore" - _____ and builds on what he has said in the first 11 verses that give us a summary of Christian doctrine: "these things"__

- i. Salvation's sufficiency - The Believer's _____ (vs. 3-4)
- ii. Salvation's service – The Believer's _____ (vs. 5-9)
- iii. Salvation's surety – The Believer's _____ (vs. 10-11)

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.

- h. "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)?
- i. 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 _____. (Phil. 3:1; Rom. 15:15; Jude 5; 1 John 2:21; Synoptic Gospels; Psalms)
- j. Not only do they "know these things", they have been "established in the truth". What does "established mean? _____ What sort of things establish believers, churches? (Acts 2:42; 1 Tim. 3:15)

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)

- k. 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? _____
(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 _____. Peter wants to keep them _____.
 - It is the rightful role of _____ (Acts 20:20; Eph. 4:11-16)
 - How does he refer to his body in verse 13?

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? _____
(See John 21:18-19) What can we learn from Peter's attitude to death?

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? _____
(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 "_____ " the _____ so that after his death they will never forget them.