

**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)*

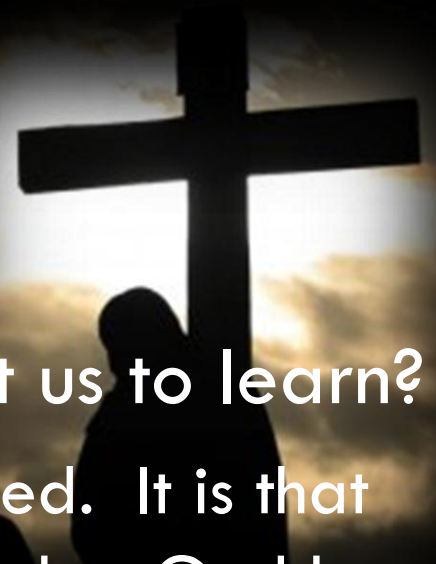
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16 For we did not follow cleverly devised tales when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses of His majesty. 17 For when He received honor and glory from God the Father, such an [a]utterance as this 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. 1:12-18)



**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. The testimony of the eyewitnesses were fully creditable – nobody made up a story, nobody fooled them – they were there. They saw it. They heard it. It happened! You can believe it!

# 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.



## Our Eyewitnesses (1:16-18)

### The Evidences of the Truth (1:16-18)

- a. In verses 12-15, Peter told his readers that his purpose for the rest of his earthly life would be to continually remind them of these great and essential truths concerning Jesus Christ – what Christ has done for them, the way they need to continue to grow and mature in Christ, that their lives need to be focused on the coming again of Christ in Glory to establish the Kingdom, of which they in glorified bodies, will be a part.

# Our Eyewitnesses (1:16-18)

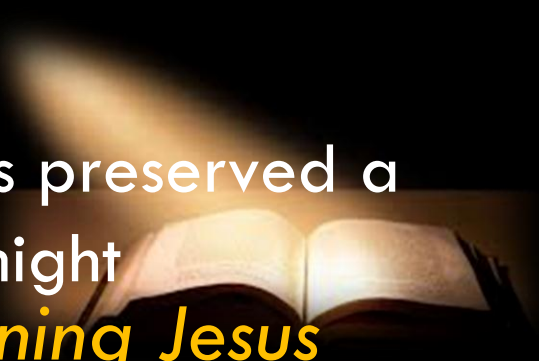
Our Foundation – Teaching of the Apostles and Prophets

All of this has as its foundation – the fact that what Peter says about Jesus Christ is true. For the remainder of Chap. 1, Peter will offer them the evidence and assurance – two lines of support:

- i. Verses 16-18 - Apostolic eyewitness testimony
- ii. Verses 19-21 - Authority of prophetic Scriptures

## Our Eyewitnesses (1:16-18)

The facts to which the apostles and prophets testify are the foundation for our Christian faith. This is what Peter will base his argument on. (Eph. 2:20)

- i. Apostles were Eyewitnesses of Jesus Christ, His Person and Power
- ii. Under the direction of the Spirit, God has preserved a record of their testimony so that we might respond in faith to the facts concerning Jesus.
1. Jesus is the focal point; the One who must be believed  
- Because of who He is and what He has done.

## Our Eyewitnesses (1:16-18)

The 1st Line of Argument – What Peter observed and heard as an apostle of Jesus Christ – experienced in the context of other apostles.

Note that verse 16 begins with “For” – meant to connect 15 w/ 16

It is important to remember...important to be able to “call them to mind”...why? Because they are true and after the apostles pass off the scene, we simply have the written record of the eyewitnesses.....Just as true and valid!



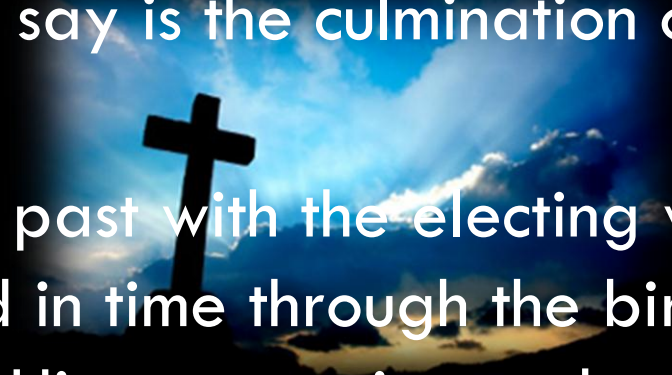
# Our Eyewitnesses (1:16-18)

Salvation Stands as a Complete Plan

*16 For we did not follow cleverly devised tales when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ,*

Peter is talking about the Coming of Jesus Christ. The focal point of what he will say is the culmination of our salvation.

Salvation: -Began is eternity past with the electing work of God; and accomplished in time through the birth, life and death of Jesus Christ; His resurrection and ascension into heaven; and completed in His Future coming again in glorious power of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ



## *Our Eyewitnesses (1:16-18)*

Peter begins by saying that he and the other apostles were not tricked by clever people into believing something that men devised and made up regarding the coming of Jesus Christ.

“...we did not follow cleverly devised tales...” - tales translated is the Greek word muthos – or myth.

“cleverly devised” – conveys the idea of individuals who with cleverness of their minds and worldly wisdom concocted a fable or story that the apostles accepted as true and were now passing along and repeating.

Peter says: *That did not happen!*



## *Our Eyewitnesses (1:16-18)*

Paul exhorts us to have nothing to do with tales or fables or myths. (1 Tim. 1:3-4, 4:7)

Why was the practice of embellishing Scripture with all kinds of tales and or myths happening? Is it prevalent in the Church today? (2 Tim. 4:3-4; Titus 1:14)

“when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ,” The word translated made known is used repeatedly in the NT concerning the *Giving of revelation*. (Rom. 16:26; 1 Cor. 15:1)

## Our Eyewitnesses (1:16-18)

Christ's Power to Be Revealed When He Returns

“...the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ...” – grammatically linked and focused on one event – the power and coming. Truth made known to you concerning the future coming of Christ in fullness of power and Glory.

Peter: “...not a story someone made up....rather we were Eyewitnesses of His majesty.” ( v. 16)

The apostles were eyewitnesses. They saw it with their own eyes, and heard it with their own ears (v.18)



## Our Eyewitnesses (1:16-18)

His Majesty – word that denotes Splendor, grandeur.

The reference is to the transfiguration of Christ recorded in [Matt. 17](#), [Mark 9](#), and [Luke 9](#). It is the time when Christ was transfigured – underwent the transformation – and displayed His glorious power as the coming Messiah – fully manifested and made clear to Peter, James and John. (Read Matt. 17:1-9)

What events are in view in 2 Pet. 1:16-18?

## *Our Eyewitnesses (1:16-18)*

*17 For when He received honor and glory from God the Father, such an utterance as this was made to Him by the Majestic Glory, “This is My beloved Son with whom I am well-pleased”—*

*Christ received honor and glory from God the Father, and was distinguished from Him. Christ was identified as God the Father’s beloved son. God the Father bestowed glory and honor upon Christ.*

*“...This is my beloved Son...” – Christ was clearly identified as the Messiah. (Ps. 2:6-9)*

*“...with whom I am well pleased.” – Christ was the One who pleases God . (Isa. 42:1)*

## Our Eyewitnesses (1:16-18)

*18 and we ourselves heard this utterance made from heaven when we were with Him on the holy mountain.*

### God Spoke for Humans to Hear



- *Matt. 3:16-17* “This is my beloved Son...” – signaled the beginning of His Public ministry
- *John 12:27-28* “I have both glorified it and will glorify it again...” - God will Glorify Himself.
- *Matt. 17:5* – “This is my beloved Son...listen to Him!” – Christ was the one to whom Elijah and Moses had pointed to.



*Peter:*

*Nobody made up a story, nobody fooled him — He was there, He saw it. He heard it. It happened. You can believe it!*