

"A Simple Reminder"

2 Peter 1:12-15

Introduction: Tonight in our study of 2 Peter we have come to 4 verses that could be seen as a parenthesis. Peter breaks his thought pattern here to give his readers these 4 verses to inform them as to why he is writing this letter. Next week when we get back to verse 16, we will see that it connects directly to verse 11. So Peter just pauses his thought pattern to help his readers to see the importance of this letter.

I. Peter's Concern

Notice 2 Peter 1:12

There are several points for us to see within this verse and the first one is, Peter's responsibility. Peter told his readers he would not be negligent meaning he would not be careless. He knew God had trusted him with the responsibility of preparing these believers to be able to stand against the attacks of the false teachers. The way of preparing these believers was to refresh their memory of the basic Truths that he had just presented in the first 11 verses on spiritual growth.

Notice 2 Peter 1:12 again.

These were basic Truths which these believers already knew. Peter was not teaching any new revelation but he was only stirring up the minds of his readers so they would remember what they already knew. This is exactly why this is such a short letter. Peter was not unfolding new revelation, but he was using this letter as a reminder. Peter knew that the best defense against false teaching was to be "ESTABLISHED" in the Truth. We must not miss the fact that he did not spend time teaching them about the false teaching of the Gnostics but instead he reinforced the Truth they already knew.

Application:

There are many applications here, but I just want to consider 2 points of application.

- 1. The main responsibility of the pastor of the church is to teach the Truth of God's Word.**

For the church to be entertained with music or stories would in no way help us to stand against the false teaching of our world. That which will benefit and equip the believer is the Truth of the Bible.

Psalm 1:1-3

Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful.

² *But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night.*

³ *And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper.*

Let us notice Paul's words to the elders of the church at Ephesus.

Acts 20:27-32

²⁷ *For I have not shunned to declare unto you all the counsel of God.*

²⁸ *Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood.*

²⁹ *For I know this, that after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock.*

³⁰ *Also of your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them.*

³¹ *Therefore watch, and remember, that by the space of three years I ceased not to warn every one night and day with tears.*

³² *And now, brethren, I commend you to God, and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up, and to give you an inheritance among all them which are sanctified.*

2. Only the Truth will enable us to recognize a fake.

People who are taught to recognize counterfeit money are taught to learn how real money feels, looks, and handles. They spend time studying, touching and handling the real thing that way when a counterfeit is introduced, they can identify it. It may look different, it may feel different, and it may handle different. So after someone learns the feel of real money and then a counterfeit is slipped in, they will immediately notice that something is not right. It may not look right, or it may not handle or feel the same. These people do NOT spend time studying counterfeits because there are so many it would take far too long. They get acquainted with the real thing then they can recognize the fake when it shows up.

Application:

This same method is what Peter is talking about in this letter. So for us we are not to try and learn the in and outs of every false teaching because there are far too many. Instead we are to study the real TRUTH and then when a false teaching is set before us our minds will say, "Something is not right here. This does not feel right. This does not work in harmony with a certain passage in the Bible. This is not in harmony with what we have been taught."

Let us notice one more thought from this verse.

Notice 2 Peter 1:12 again.

Peter was not teaching something new to his readers as we already considered. He was reminding them of what they were previously taught and what they already knew.

Application:

If you are a teacher of a Sunday School class, or a class in junior church, or you teach the adults, keep in mind that you do not need to teach something that no one else has taught. That would be impossible anyway. We all need to be reminded of the basics over and over again. Teachers and preachers can often put themselves under unneeded pressure thinking that they must come up with something new. To begin with there is nothing new and also, we need to be reminded of what we already know. None of us remember all we have ever been taught and that is why God uses teachers to refresh our minds on a regular basis. This is exactly what Peter was doing. He knew that the best defense against what was coming was a believer who was growing in the Word and one who knew the fundamentals.

II. Peter's Insight

Notice 2 Peter 1:13-14

Here in these verses Peter is remembering something which Jesus had revealed to him.

John 21:18-22

¹⁸ *Verily, verily, I say unto thee, When thou wast young, thou girdest thyself, and walkedst whither thou wouldst: but when thou shalt be old, thou shalt stretch forth thy hands, and another shall gird thee, and carry thee whither thou wouldst not.*

¹⁹ *This spake he, signifying by what death he should glorify God. And when he had spoken this, he saith unto him, Follow me.*

²⁰ Then Peter, turning about, seeth the disciple whom Jesus loved following; which also leaned on his breast at supper, and said, Lord, which is he that betrayeth thee?

²¹ Peter seeing him saith to Jesus, Lord, and what shall this man do?

²² Jesus saith unto him, If I will that he tarry till I come, what is that to thee? follow thou me.

Here in this text the Lord revealed to Peter how he would one day die. Tradition says Peter was crucified upside down and that is how he died. This conversation is what Peter has in mind in 2 Peter 1:13-14 and some how Peter knew that the time of fulfillment for the Lord's prophecy of his death was very near. Therefore the letter which we are studying is really Peter's last will and testament. Now we need to look a little closer at what Peter has to say concerning death. Peter refers to his body as a tabernacle or a tent. A tent is a temporary dwelling place. If you go camping and stay in a tent it is only for a few days, then you move out of the tent and go somewhere else. That is the very way it is in our lives. Our bodies are tents for our souls and when the day of death comes, we will not cease to exist, but we will simply move from one place to another.

2 Corinthians 5:1-2, 6-8

For we know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.

² For in this we groan, earnestly desiring to be clothed upon with our house which is from heaven:

⁶ Therefore we are always confident, knowing that, whilst we are at home in the body, we are absent from the Lord:

⁷ (For we walk by faith, not by sight:)

⁸ We are confident, I say, and willing rather **to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord.**

We who are saved MOVE from this tent into heaven in the presence of the Lord. The unsaved also MOVE but not into heaven.

Luke 16:19-23

¹⁹ There was a certain rich man, which was clothed in purple and fine linen, and fared sumptuously every day:

²⁰ *And there was a certain beggar named Lazarus, which was laid at his gate, full of sores,*

²¹ *And desiring to be fed with the crumbs which fell from the rich man's table: moreover the dogs came and licked his sores.*

²² *And it came to pass, that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels into Abraham's bosom: the rich man also died, and was buried;*

²³ **And in hell he lift up his eyes, being in torments, and seeth Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom.**

I need to take a moment here and just remind us that our day of MOVING is fast approaching also.

Job 14:1-2, 5

*Man that is born of a woman is **of few days** and full of trouble.*

² *He cometh forth like a flower, and is cut down: he fleeth also as a shadow, and continueth not.*

⁵ *Seeing his days are determined, the number of his months are with thee, thou hast **appointed** his bounds that he cannot pass;*

Psalm 90:9-10

⁹ *For all our days are passed away in thy wrath: we spend our years as a tale that is told.*

¹⁰ *The days of our years are threescore years and ten; and if by reason of strength they be fourscore years, yet is their strength labour and sorrow: **for it is soon cut off, and we fly away.***

James 4:13-14

¹³ *Go to now, ye that say, To day or to morrow we will go into such a city, and continue there a year, and buy and sell, and get gain:*

¹⁴ *Whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow. For what is your life? **It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away.***

Let us get back to Peter's thoughts again. Peter knew his time was limited and that he needed to use the time he had to teach these believers.

Application:

Our days are numbered and our window of time to serve the Lord is limited. If there are people in your family or friends that need to hear the Gospel, you better take the time to tell them because you may be the very person whom God has placed in their lives to do so. There may not be another believer who steps into their lives after you are gone.

John 4:3-7

³ He left Judaea, and departed again into Galilee.

⁴ And he must needs go through Samaria.

⁵ Then cometh he to a city of Samaria, which is called Sychar, near to the parcel of ground that Jacob gave to his son Joseph.

⁶ Now Jacob's well was there. Jesus therefore, being wearied with his journey, sat thus on the well: and it was about the sixth hour.

⁷ There cometh a woman of Samaria to draw water:

I show you this text about the woman at the well because this was a divine appointment that Jesus had set up to speak with this woman about salvation. She was saved here and many in her town were saved through her testimony. These divine appointments are often set up in our lives. It could be at the grocery store, possibly at the hospital, possibly at the doctor's office, or possibly at a place of employment and so on. God directs our steps to where He desires for us to be.

Proverbs 16:9

⁹ A man's heart deviseth his way: but the LORD directeth his steps.

Notice 2 Peter 1:15

Peter would be sure that even after he MOVED from his tent that these believers would remember that which would equip them to stand against the false teachers. This would be accomplished through this letter that he was writing.

Conclusion:

As we move on in this letter, we will see that we too will face false teaching. So let us keep in mind that we must be grounded in the fundamentals, and it is good to be reminded frequently.