

Remember The Basics

2 Peter 1:12-15

Thought for the Day: We need to constantly remember and be firmly established in the basic truths of the Christian life so that we can stir others up by continually reminding them of these truths.

Like a good coach, the Apostle Peter sought to constantly remind his readers of the basic truths of the Christian life. We are forgetful and easily distracted by the things of the world and therefore, need to be continually reminded of the fundamentals of the faith.

Millions of Christians are being deceived and led astray by false teachers because they are neglecting the fundamentals of the faith while pursuing what they believe are the “deeper truths” of the Christian faith.

12 Therefore...

- Verse 10 – If we are developing the Christlike character qualities listed in verses 5-7, and are putting them into practice, we will: 1) demonstrate the reality of our calling and election from God; and 2) never fall from our position of assurance in our salvation.
- Verse 11 – If we are cultivating Christlike character and conduct, we will receive an abundant entrance into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

...I intend always to remind you of these qualities...

- *NKJV* – “For this reason I will not be *negligent* to remind you always of these things...”
- “If he failed to repeat what his readers had already learned, he would be guilty of negligence. He reminds his readers of what they already know because the spirit is willing and the flesh is weak, and no sooner do we learn something about the things of God than we become [forgetful of them.] We begin to rest on our laurels and lose any sense of urgency about pressing forward into the kingdom of God.” (*Sproul, 1-2 Peter, p. 200*)
- The importance of repetition in order to remember the truths of God’s Word.
 - “Repetition penetrates the thickest of skulls. Repetition is the Mother of learning. Review, review, review!” We learn through repetition.
 - “Truth always needs repetition because believers forget so easily.” (*MacArthur, 1 & 2 Peter, p. 78*) “We have leaky brains!”
- “Because of the glories awaiting the believers [in heaven], Peter intended to keep on reminding them not to allow their salvation to become a license for immoral living, nor to rest content in knowledge of the gospel without obeying it and applying it to their lives. The times were difficult — persecution was increasing from without; false teachers were spewing evil doctrine from within. He encouraged the believers to continue to stand firm on the basics of their faith, to continue to remind themselves of these truths (even though they knew them already), and to reestablish themselves in the truth they had been taught.” (*The Life Application Commentary Series*)
- Between now and the Return of Jesus Christ for His Church, we are in for a rough ride! In order to survive spiritually, we must be rooted and grounded in the basic truths of the Christian faith. (*Know What You Believe & Know Why You Believe* – Paul E. Little)

...though you know them and are established in the truth that you have.

- Luke 22:31-32 – “Simon, Simon, behold, Satan demanded to have you, that he might sift you like wheat, but I have prayed for you that your faith may not fail. And when you have turned again [when you have repented], strengthen [establish] your brothers.”
 - Peter never forgot the exhortation Jesus had given to him. At the end of his life, he was doing everything he could to strengthen and establish his brothers and sisters in their faith by reminding them of the basic truths of God’s Word.
 - Colossians 2:6-7 – “Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him, rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving.” [Note the threefold repetition for emphasis.]
- Preachers and teachers are to do their part by teaching the truths of God’s Word and reminding their listeners of those truths. But each of us must do our part by seeking to be rooted and built up in Christ and established in the faith, just as we have been taught.
 - How? By learning the truth and diligently putting it into practice in our daily lives!

13 I think it right, as long as I am in this body, to stir you up by way of reminder...

- “It is always right to stir up the saints and remind them of the Word of God.” (*Wiersbe, Be Alert, p. 34*)
- Literally, “as long as I am in this tent...” (*NKJV, NIV*)
 - Life in this body on planet earth is short, temporary and quickly passing by. “Your eternal life is at stake; therefore, I will stir you up!” (2 Corinthians 5:1, 4)
 - “As nomads pack up their tents in order to move to a new location, so human beings one day will put aside their physical bodies in order to move into eternity — in the case of believers, to new and glorious bodies (1 Corinthians 15:42-44).” (*LACS*)
- To stir up – “To awaken, to arouse from sleep.”
 - “[Peter] knows he needs to rouse his readers from [spiritual] slumber and call them to vigilance in working out their faith.” (*Sproul, 1-2 Peter, p. 201*)

14 since I know that the putting off of my body will be soon, as our Lord Jesus Christ made clear to me. 15 And I will make every effort so that after my departure you may be able at any time to recall these things.

- Peter was probably in his seventies at the time he wrote this letter (likely from a prison cell in Rome), and he “...knew that he would die soon. [Almost forty] years before, Christ had prepared Peter for the kind of death he would face, although the only timing Peter knew was that he would be ‘old’ (see John 21:18-19). At the writing of this letter, Peter knew that his death was at hand. . . Peter was martyred for the faith in about A.D. 68. According to some traditions, he was crucified upside down, at his own request, because he did not feel worthy to die in the same manner as his Master.” (*LACS*)
- “Peter did not see himself passing out of existence but moving from one place to another. He was about to pack up his tent and go home.” (*Sproul, 1-2 Peter, p. 201*)
 - There is no “soul sleep”; there is no Purgatory.
 - When we’re in the body, we are away from the Lord. When we’re away from the body, we are at home with the Lord. (2 Corinthians 5:6-8)
- Are you ready to go home to be with the Lord? Are you helping others get ready to go home?