



EXILES – A Study Through 1st & 2nd Peter – Certainty.

ADAM LONG

Week of February 27th, 2022

SERMON TEXT // 2 Peter 1:12-21 English Standard Version

¹²Therefore I intend always to remind you of these qualities, though you know them and are established in the truth that you have. ¹³I think it right, as long as I am in this body, to stir you up by way of reminder, ¹⁴since I know that the putting off of my body will be soon, as our Lord Jesus Christ made clear to me. ¹⁵And I will make every effort so that after my departure you may be able at any time to recall these things. ¹⁶For we did not follow cleverly devised myths when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses of his majesty. ¹⁷For when he received honor and glory from God the Father, and the voice was borne to him by the Majestic Glory, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased," ¹⁸we ourselves heard this very voice borne from heaven, for we were with him on the holy mountain. ¹⁹And we have the prophetic word more fully confirmed, to which you will do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts, ²⁰knowing this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture comes from someone's own interpretation. ²¹For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.

SERMON GUIDE // Peter understood the certainty of uncertainty – but at this point in his life he knew death was closing in on him. There were mounting pressures in Rome, under the reign of Nero, for the unrelenting persecution of Christians. This second letter from Peter essentially functions as his own his last will and testament to the church. Fortunately, what he left behind is far more precious than money, property, or material wealth; Peter left behind a written legacy for the church that urges every believer to constantly live with the end in mind; or more pointedly – that we live with the reality of Christ's eventual and inevitable return on the forefront of our hearts and minds.

Certainty is a theme that runs throughout Peter's second letter to the church. In chapter one we find the certainty believers can have in the assurance of their salvation, (vv.1-11) certainty of the Apostolic witness, (vv.12-16) as well as the certainty that is found in the prophetic word of God's revelation. (vv.19-21) In chapters two and three Peter points to the certainty of false teachers in these last days looking to dismantle the truth of the gospel; specifically the Second Coming

SERMON GUIDE // Peter's aim was to **remind** his readers of Christ's eventual and inevitable return; to **stir them up** with that truth, and to enable them to **recall** that truth in seasons of persecution. Certainty of Christ's return is the bedrock of a godly life and Peter wanted his audience to trust his personal witness as well as the prophetic word. Without certainty of His return – we are likely to fall away into the snares of the devil and his false teachers.

For us – the application is simple. First, we must be certain of our salvation. For those who have that certainty we can apply Peter's last words to our lives by paying attention to God's Word. Read it, study it, memorize it, practice it, and share it everyday – our godly life is dependent upon it!

REFLECT. II POINT. II MAKE.



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COMMUNITYGROUPS | Week of February 27th, 2022

Question 1 // Read **2 Peter 1:12-21**. What is something from the text that resonated with you, a truth that encouraged you, or even a question you may have surrounding the text theme?

Question 2 // In 2 Peter 1:13-14 Peter writes: ***I think it right, as long as I am in this body, to stir you up by way of reminder, since I know that the putting off of my body will be soon, as our Lord Jesus Christ made clear to me.*** Adam pointed out that the Greek word used for body translates to "tent". Peter understood the body was merely a dwelling place for the soul which is a reminder to each of us that, as Christians, we are sojourners here on earth. ***How frequently do you remind yourself that your citizenship is not of this earth? How does or could keeping this mindset sharpen you?***

Question 3 // In closing his sermon, Adam said "Certainty of Christ's return is the bedrock of a godly life and Peter wanted his audience to trust his personal witness as well as the prophetic word. Without certainty of His return – we are likely to fall away into the snares of the devil and his false teachers." ***What is it about the certainty of Christ's return that keeps us from falling? Should Christians reflect daily on this truth?***

Question 4 // Although we may have knowledge, (2 Peter 1:5-7) reminders are vital to the Christian life. Peter was striving to **stir up** the believers affections towards loving a godly life and provides many reminders to aid them in that goal. ***What role does "reminding" have in the church? How do you do that when we gather together?***

Reflection & Prayer

Pray that God would awaken a hunger and thirst for His Word within us today