

# Love God's Word

2 Peter 1:12-21

May 1, 2022

# 2 PETER

A LONG OBEDIENCE IN THE SAME DIRECTION

Most of us think of the gospel as a message of personal salvation: Believe that Jesus died on the cross for your sins, and one day you'll die and go to heaven. And that's true as far as it goes. But the gospel Jesus preached is "the good news of the kingdom of God" (Mark 1:15). It's a declaration that God has come to reclaim his world and redeem our rebel race. It puts the world on notice. Hence the call is to "repent and believe the good news." In other words, lay down your arms, confess your treason, pledge loyalty to Jesus (Romans 10:9), and graciously receive sonship and citizenship in a REAL kingdom.

The natural outgrowth of that salvation is discipleship and sanctification; following Jesus and becoming like Jesus. Or as Peter puts it, "Grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ" (3:18). We simply cannot, *must not*, fall away. It's unthinkable, yet all too typical. But Peter's words—which are God's own words—are given to graciously keep us strong and steadfast for the long haul.

Read 2 Peter 1:12-21, then discuss.

1. **God's Word reminds us.** (1:12-15)

- How forgetful are you, generally speaking? Is your mind more of a safe or a sieve?
- What would you say are the three most important things people tend to forget or neglect?
- How does the Bible help us with these?
- The Bible puts a premium on remembering: "remember the Lord," "remember the Sabbath," "Do this in remembrance of Me," and so forth. Why? Are we really in danger of forgetting that Jesus died for us? What is this all really driving at?

2. **God's Word envisions us.** (1:16-18)

Read the story of the transfiguration in Matthew 17:1-8.

- How do you think this vision of the glorified Christ envisioned Peter for his life and future?
- How does Peter's eyewitness report affect your vision? Does it help you see where you're going?
- What other Scriptures give you vision for the future?

3. **God's Word guides us.** (1:19-21)

- Some people wrestle with the inspiration and authority of Scripture. Do you? In what ways?
- If someone were to ask you why you trust the Bible, what would you say?
- What's one example of how the Bible has helped you like "a lamp shining in a dark place"?

4. What's one bottom-line challenge or encouragement you take from this passage?