

2 Peter 1:12-21: *So I will always remind you of these things, even though you know them and are firmly established in the truth you now have. ¹³ I think it is right to refresh your memory as long as I live in the tent of this body, ¹⁴ because I know that I will soon put it aside, as our Lord Jesus Christ has made clear to me. ¹⁵ And I will make every effort to see that after my departure you will always be able to remember these things. ¹⁶ For we did not follow cleverly devised stories when we told you about the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ in power, but we were eyewitnesses of his majesty. ¹⁷ He received honor and glory from God the Father when the voice came to him from the Majestic Glory, saying, “This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased.” ¹⁸ We ourselves heard this voice that came from heaven when we were with him on the sacred mountain. ¹⁹ We also have the prophetic message as something completely reliable, and you will do well to pay attention to it, as to a light shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts. ²⁰ Above all, you must understand that no prophecy of Scripture came about by the prophet’s own interpretation of things. ²¹ For prophecy never had its origin in the human will, but prophets, though human, spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.*

INTRO to Series – “Everything We Need: 2 Peter”:

-As we approach the midpoint of this year, the challenges around us are too many to count. It’s sometimes hard to know who to trust, how to think, and how to keep our hearts from growing cold. In the Apostle Peter’s second letter to the Church, God assures us that through His divine power, we have EVERYTHING WE NEED to live a faithful life in godliness and goodness. As we study this letter together, we will be encouraged further that when our lives are built upon God’s firm foundation, we can stand firm no matter our circumstances and no matter what others do around us.

INTRO to **2 Peter 1:12-21:** Peter begins these verses by mentioning “these things” – referring to he had just written in the previous verses about the equal value of both our salvation and our calling in Jesus Christ to be Great Commission Christians as part of the Great Commission Church. In the final part of **Ch. 1** today, Peter expresses his personal commitments to the Church, sharing the Gospel, and God’s Word.

●**Peter was committed to building up the Church on the foundation faith in Jesus Christ. (vs. 12-15)**

-As Peter reflects on his ministry among the churches and the reality that his time on earth was growing short—he incorporates two common themes of Scripture for believers: “remember...” and “pass on...”. *Remember God’s Word and what He has done for you, and tell it to your children and your children’s children.* (See **Deuteronomy 6:4-9, John 14:25-26, 1 Corinthians 15:1, and 2 Timothy 2:8-9, 14a**).

-“Truth needs to be repeated,” as one commentator said. There is something powerful about being reminded of the truth we already know.

QUESTION: To whom are we listening and to whom will we continue to listen?

•**Peter was committed to sharing personally the Good News of Jesus Christ.**

-As Peter expresses the truth of the message of the Gospel, he writes that they did not follow *mythois* – which means cleverly devised stories, fables, or the literal word myths. Peter and the other Apostles were not prepared to die for a myth!

-Perhaps some of the false teachers were teaching myths or had accused the Apostles of fabricating stories about Jesus.

-To confront this – Peter refers to just one of the many occasions that he witnessed Jesus’ divine ministry personally – the Transfiguration (see **Matthew 17:5, Mark 9:7, Luke 9:35**; see also **John 1:14** below): *we were eyewitnesses of his majesty. He received honor and glory from God the Father when the voice came to him from the Majestic Glory, saying, “This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased.” We ourselves heard this voice that came from heaven when we were with him on the sacred mountain.*

-Peter concludes this chapter by describing that what they witnessed had already been clearly prophesied in the Scriptures...

•**Peter was committed to the Word of God which always points to the WORD—Jesus Christ.**

-The Prophets, as N.T. Wright wrote, were like “signposts” pointing forward to what was to come through Jesus Christ.

-The words of the Prophets, Peter reminds, did not come from their own will but were given by the Holy Spirit. This is true of all Scripture (see **2 Timothy 3:16-17** below).

-The “*light shing in a dark place*” and “*the morning star rising in your hearts*” refer to Scripture and to Jesus Himself.

-Peter expresses his firm commitment to the Word of God (Scripture) which always points to the WORD which was from the beginning and became flesh (Jesus Christ).

-The Apostles, like Peter, were faithful to their salvation and calling in their time. We, like them, live between the first and second coming of Jesus Christ.

QUESTION: Will we make the most of our moment?

Other Scriptures Referenced:

Deuteronomy 6:4-9: *“Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. ⁵ You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. ⁶ And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. ⁷ You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise. ⁸ You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. ⁹ You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.”*

John 14:25-26: *“All this I have spoken while still with you. ²⁶ But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you.”*

1 Corinthians 15:1: *Now, brothers and sisters, I want to remind you of the gospel I preached to you, which you received and on which you have taken your stand.*

2 Timothy 2:8-9, 14a: *Remember Jesus Christ, raised from the dead, descended from David. This is my gospel, ⁹ for which I am suffering even to the point of being chained like a criminal. But God’s word is not chained. . . . Keep reminding God’s people of these things.*

John 1:14: *The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.*

Psalms 119:105: *Your word is a lamp for my feet,
a light on my path.*

2 Timothy 3:16-17: *All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, ¹⁷ so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.*

Other Quotes/Resources:

“The best defense against false teaching is true living.” –Warren Wiersbe

–“A band of twelve men went forth from Jerusalem, and they were common men, not trained in speaking, but by the power of God they testified to every race of humankind.”
–Justin Martyr