

## Sermon Notes for 2 Peter 1:12-15 (March 15)

- Uncertain times like Peter's audience was experiencing inside (with false teachers) and outside (with Nero's growing persecution) the church can be distracting and lead to forgetfulness.
- Peter is going to do everything in his power to remind everyone to remember what matters most and we can see three reminders that flow out of Peter's life and words

### 1. Remember the truth factor (1:12)

- a. Peter's word revolve around the importance of remembering "*these things*" which he calls "*the truth*"
  - i. It's **objective** truth for everyone (Bible-Jn 17:17; God-Ps 31:5; Jesus-Jn 14:6; Holy Spirit-Jn 15:26; the church-1 Tim. 3:15; the gospel-Col 1:5; and unbelievers who "*suppress the truth in unrighteousness*"-Rm 1:18)
  - ii. It's **outcome-based** truth for everyone (your response will determine your life experience and eternal destiny)
- b. Peter knows the false teachers are just surrogates of Satan who's the "*father of lies*" and "*does not stand in the truth because there is no truth in him*" (Jn. 8:44)
- c. **Two questions** to ask and answer:
  - i. **#1:** How does Peter characterize the need for reminding believers of truth?
    1. There needs to be **constant reminders** ("*always be ready to remind you*"): God uses all kinds of memory devices to motivate us to remember (ark of the covenant; memorial stones; blue tassels on robes; Sabbath Day; Passover; tithing; Lord's Supper, etc.)
    2. There needs to be constant reminders **about what we already know** ("*even though you already know them*"): New or novel isn't always good in God's world as His truth never changes or gets outdated
    3. There needs to be constant reminders about what we already know **that has stabilized our faith** ("*have been established in the truth*"): God's truth is a faith-building, faith-stabilizing agent (Col. 2:6-7)

- ii. **#2:** What are the necessary things he refers to as “*these things*” and “*the truth*” that need to be constantly remembered?
  1. It’s a **gifted faith** (v. 1-2): You and I don’t obtain it by our own effort or means, but God grants it
  2. It’s a **gorged faith** (v. 3-4): It’s fully-loaded with “*everything pertaining to life and godliness*”
  3. It’s a **growing faith** (v. 5-9): God’s 7 virtues being added to our faith makes useful and fruitful in the kingdom
  4. It’s a **glorious faith** (v. 10-11): Is there anything greater or more glorious than being eternally secure (v. 10: “you will never stumble”) or abundantly supplies in the eternal kingdom with Jesus (v.11)?
- iii. **Remember** who God is and what’s He done (Notice in every verse between v. 1-11 all the ways the Lord is the ground and foundation of our faith (righteousness; grace; peace; gave us everything; promises; virtues to add; His calling and choosing you; the abundantly supplied eternal kingdom)

## 2. **Remember the temporary factor** (1:13-14)

- a. Peter recognizes the brevity and fragility of life and models by his thinking two lessons about life and death:
  - i. Remember to **live as a pilgrim** focused on what matters (we live in “*earthly dwellings*”): If heaven is our real and ultimate home, we shouldn’t be getting too attached here.
  - ii. Remember to **live with perspective** as you view the end of your life (your view of death is “*a laying aside*” or “*departure*”). Does death rattle your cage or do you see it as a transition from the slavery of this body of sin to a glorious eternity with Christ?

## 3. **Remember the testimony factor** (1:15)

- a. **Ask:** What will be your legacy? What will you be remembered for? Forgetting or Remembering?
- b. Peter was committed to being a “**diligent**” (every effort) reminder that would outlast his life (he wrote two letters that grow our faith in Christ).
- c. **Think** about leaving a testimony of:
  - i. Confidence in Christ (Do you depend upon Him and “walk by faith”)
  - ii. Character of life (Are you honest and trustworthy?)
  - iii. Care for others (Do you practically love God’s people and seeking to spread God’s gospel love to the lost?)