

SIMON PETER

A SERVANT AND APOSTLE (SPECIAL MESSENGER) OF JESUS CHRIST

Part 6

2 PETER

Pastor Grant Williams

2 Peter 1:12 AMPC

12 So I intend always to remind you about these things, although indeed you know them and are firm in the truth that [you] now [hold].

2 Peter 1:12 KJV

12 Wherefore I will not be negligent to put you always in remembrance of these things, though ye know them, and be established in the present truth.

In part 5, we learned that Jesus is the only way to heaven. Those who are truly saved are taking up their cross daily and walking, talking and living in habitual obedience to the Word, Jesus.

We also learned some of the character traits of those who follow Jesus. Some of the character traits are faith, virtue, knowledge, temperance, patience, kindness, charity, and godliness.

Peter is reminding them and you and I today of these things, so that they/we will not be negligent in keeping them. He says that they are already aware of this, but he is just reminding them, so they will grow in the Lord.

Negligent

Breach of duty: In a legal context, negligence is a failure to meet a legal duty of care owed to another person; failure to take the proper care of something or someone that you are responsible for. Careless;

"And be established in the present truth": This means you are daily studying God's Word and growing in that knowledge. To do otherwise, would make you a backslider.

Note: Peter was likely in his mid sixties as he wrote this letter (likely from a Roman prison), and anticipated dying soon. Nero's persecution had begun and he was martyred in it, soon after writing this epistle. Historical documents state that he was crucified upside down, refusing to be crucified like Jesus.

2 Peter 1:13 AMPC

*13 **I think it right**, as long as I am in this tabernacle (tent, body), to stir you up by way of remembrance,*

2 Peter 1:13 KJV

*13 Yea, **I think it meet**, as long as I am in this tabernacle, to stir you up by putting you in remembrance;*

"Meet": This means, is right or righteous. ***"Tabernacle"***: Peter is speaking of the tabernacle of his body. He knows it is important to not only be saved, but to stay saved and to walk daily in the salvation you have received. Since Jesus gave him such authority in the church, he was obligated to keep reminding them how important it is to walk uprightly before the Lord.

Luke 12:48 AMPC

48... For everyone to whom much is given, of him shall much be required; and of him to whom men entrust much, they will require and demand all the more.

2 Peter 1:14 AMPC

14 Since I know that the laying aside of this body of mine will come speedily, as our Lord Jesus Christ made clear to me.

2 Peter 1:14 KJV

14 Knowing that shortly I must put off this my tabernacle, even as our Lord Jesus Christ hath shewed me.

Peter was aware that in the near future he would be dead, he was speaking to them while he could. The Lord had shown Peter that he would die the martyr's death over 40 years earlier.

“Shortly I must put off this my tabernacle”: This refers to Peter’s impending death, which the Lord had predicted (in John 21:18-19). As a result of what was about to take place, Peter urges his readers to remember his testimony after he has died.

John 21:18-25 AMPC

18 I assure you, most solemnly I tell you, when you were young you girded yourself [put on your own belt or girdle] and you walked about wherever you pleased to go. But when you grow old you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will put a girdle around you and carry you where you do not wish to go.

19 He said this to indicate by what kind of death Peter would glorify God. And after this, He said to him, Follow Me!

2 Peter 1:15 AMPC

15 Moreover, I will diligently endeavor [to see to it] that [even] after my departure (decease) you may be able at all times to call these things to mind.

2 Peter 1:15 KJV

15 Moreover I will endeavour that ye may be able after my decease to have these things always in remembrance.

“After my decease”: Peter wanted to make certain that after he died, God’s people would have a permanent reminder of the truth, so, he penned this inspired letter. A written message like this could be read over and over is not like a spoken message that just had use for the one message.

2 Peter 1:16 AMPC

16 For we were not following cleverly devised stories when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ (the Messiah), but we were eyewitnesses of His majesty (grandeur, authority of sovereign power).

2 Peter 1:16 KJV

16 For we have not followed cunningly devised fables, when we made known unto you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of his majesty.

“Cunningly devised fables”: The word here was used to refer to mythical stories about gods and miracles.

1 Timothy 1:4 AMPC

4 Nor to give importance to or occupy themselves with legends (fables, myths) and endless genealogies, which foster and promote useless speculations and questionings rather than acceptance in faith of God's administration and the divine training that is in faith ([a]in that leaning of the entire human personality on God in absolute trust and confidence)

1 Timothy 4:7 AMPC

7 But refuse and avoid irreverent legends (profane and impure and godless fictions, mere grandmothers' tales) and silly myths, and express your disapproval of them. Train yourself toward godliness (piety), [keeping yourself spiritually fit].

2 Timothy 4:1-6 AMPC

1 I charge [you] in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, Who is to judge the living and the dead, and by (in the light of) His coming and His kingdom:

2 Herald and preach the Word! Keep your sense of urgency [stand by, be at hand and ready], whether the opportunity seems to be favorable or unfavorable. [Whether it is convenient or inconvenient, whether it is welcome or unwelcome, you as preacher of the Word are to show people in what way their lives are wrong.] And convince them, rebuking and correcting, warning and urging and encouraging them, being unflagging and inexhaustible in patience and teaching.

3 For the time is coming when [people] will not tolerate (endure) sound and wholesome instruction, but, having ears itching [for something pleasing and gratifying], ...

...they will gather to themselves one teacher after another to a considerable number, chosen to satisfy their own liking and to foster the errors they hold,

4 And will turn aside from hearing the truth and wander off into myths and man-made fictions.

5 As for you, be calm and cool and steady, accept and suffer unflinchingly every hardship, do the work of an evangelist, fully perform all the duties of your ministry.

6 For I am already about to be sacrificed [my life is about to be poured out as a drink offering]; the time of my [spirit's] release [from the body] is at hand and I will soon go free.

Titus 1:14 AMPC

14 [And may show their soundness by] ceasing to give attention to Jewish myths and fables or to rules [laid down] by [mere] men who reject and turn their backs on the Truth.

Realizing that false leaders and their followers would try to discredit this letter, and that he was probably already being accused of concocting tales and myths in order to get people to follow him so he could amass wealth, power and prestige as false teachers were motivated to do.

Peter gave evidences in the following verses to prove that he wrote the truth of God as a genuinely inspired writer.

“Made known”: This word is a somewhat technical term for imparting something previously hidden, but now revealed.

“The power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ”: Since there is only one definite article with this phrase, the meaning is, “the powerful coming,” or “the coming in power.”

The false teachers who were opposing Peter had tried to debunk the doctrine of the second coming of Christ about which Peter had spoken and written.

2 Peter 3:3-4 AMPC

3 To begin with, you must know and understand this, that scoffers (mockers) will come in the last days with scoffing, [people who] walk after their own fleshly desires

4 And say, Where is the promise of His coming? For since the forefathers fell asleep, all things have continued exactly as they did from the beginning of creation.

1 Peter 1:13 AMPC

13 So brace up your minds; be sober (circumspect, morally alert); set your hope wholly and unchangeably on the grace (divine favor) that is coming to you when Jesus Christ (the Messiah) is revealed.

Back to 2 Peter 1:16...

“Eyewitnesses of His majesty”: The “we” that begins this verse refers to the apostles. In one sense, all of the apostles had been eyewitnesses to Christ’s majesty, especially His miracles, resurrection body, and ascension into heaven. Peter however, is referring to a more specific event which he will describe in the next verse.

The Transfiguration was a glimpse of the glory to be unveiled at the final revelation, the apocalypse of Christ (Rev. 1:1). It must be noted that Jesus' earthly ministry of healing, teaching, and gathering souls into His kingdom was a preview of the character of the earthly kingdom He will establish at His return.

Transfiguration of Christ: (In Matthew chapter 17), Jesus was temporarily glorified in the presence of three disciples. This was a foreshadowing of Christ's coming in power and glory to establish His kingdom.

Since Christians live expectantly looking forward to the return of Christ, they ought to give Him first place in their lives today, just as He will have in the kingdom.

Power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ: Peter reminds his readers that at the Transfiguration, they had beheld Christ's dynamic power and majestic "coming" (Greek parousia, the same word used for both the Rapture and the Glorious Appearing).

This scene was a foretaste of His glory to be revealed at His second coming. Peter is explaining to them that the things he tells them are not things that he has heard, but are things he actually saw.

He was one of the three apostles closest to the Lord Jesus. Peter, James, and John were with Jesus at the transfiguration. They had been with Jesus some times when the others were not.

They had heard the voice of God the Father, who said this is my beloved Son. They knew even better than the others who Jesus really was and is. They had seen Him in His magnificence at the transfiguration. Peter was trying to warn them to stay strong in the Lord, and not make the mistake he had made when he denied Jesus.

Peter's knowledge was first-hand knowledge; he had been there when Jesus taught these truths. Peter had seen the miracles Jesus had done.

- O Peter knew first-hand that He rose from death.
- O Peter was there when Jesus walked on the water.
- O He was there when Jesus calmed the angry sea.
- O He knew that Jesus caused Lazarus to rise from the dead.

All of Peter's knowledge was not hearsay... He was there when it happened.

2 Peter 1:17 AMPC

17 For when He was invested with honor and glory from God the Father and a voice was borne to Him by the [splendid] Majestic Glory [in the bright cloud that overshadowed Him, saying], This is My beloved Son in Whom I am well pleased and delight,

2 Peter 1:17 KJV

17 For he received from God the Father honour and glory, when there came such a voice to him from the excellent glory, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.

This is a reference to the glory cloud on the Mount of Transfiguration from which God spoke to the disciple.

Matthew 17:5 AMPC

5 While he was still speaking, behold, a shining cloud [composed of light] overshadowed them, and a voice from the cloud said, This is My Son, My Beloved, with Whom I am [and have always been] delighted. Listen to Him!

“This is my beloved Son”: This means, “This One is in essence with Me.” The Father is affirming the deity of Christ (Matt. 17:5; Luke 9:27-36).

The most outstanding thing to Peter, in all of this, was the moment of transfiguration, when the glory of God appeared on the mount, and Peter, James, and John heard the Father speak of Jesus as His Son, in whom He was well pleased.

Matthew 17:5-8 AMPC

5 While he was still speaking, behold, a shining cloud [composed of light] overshadowed them, and a voice from the cloud said, This is My Son, My Beloved, with Whom I am [and have always been] delighted. Listen to Him!

6 When the disciples heard it, they fell on their faces and were seized with alarm and struck with fear.

7 But Jesus came and touched them and said, Get up, and do not be afraid.

8 And when they raised their eyes, they saw no one but Jesus only.

This showed them Jesus in His glory.

2 Peter 1:18 AMPC

18 We [actually] heard this voice borne out of heaven, for we were together with Him on the holy mountain.

2 Peter 1:18 KJV

18 And this voice which came from heaven we heard, when we were with him in the holy mount.

“When we were with Him”: Peter implied that there was no reason to believe the false teachers, who denied the majesty and second coming of Christ, since they were not on the Mount of Transfiguration to see the preview of the kingdom and glory of Christ, as he, James and John were.

This is explaining that the voice was an audible voice from heaven, and that all three of them heard it.

Note: _____

2 Peter 1:19 AMPC

19 And we have the prophetic word [made] firmer still. You will do well to pay close attention to it as to a lamp shining in a dismal (squalid and dark) place, until the day breaks through [the gloom] and the Morning Star rises (comes into being) in your hearts.

2 Peter 1:19 KJV

19 We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts:

“More sure word of prophecy”: God’s prophetic Word is more complete, authoritative, and permanent than the most profound spiritual experiences, even that the Transfiguration beheld by Peter. His Word, God’s Word(s) as time passes is being made firmer, strengthened, tightened, or made more secure as the “things” written in it are taking place.

The Word of God is the light and lamp of divine revelation, shining in a world filled with spiritual darkness (Eph. 5:11; 6:12; Col. 1:13; 1 Thess. 5:4-5; 1 Peter 2:9).

The prophetic word refers not just to the Old Testament major and Minor Prophets, but to the entire Old Testament. Of course, all of the Old Testament was written by “prophets” in the truest sense, since they spoke and wrote God’s Word, which was the task of a prophet, and they looked forward, in some sense, to the coming Messiah (Luke 24:27).

Luke 24:27 AMPC

27 Then beginning with Moses and [throughout] all the Prophets, He went on explaining and interpreting to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning and referring to Himself.

In 2 Peter 1:19, Peter writes “***A more sure word***”: This translation could indicate that the eyewitness account of Christ’s majesty at the Transfiguration confirmed the Scriptures. However, the Greek word order is crucial in that it does not say that.

It says, “We have also a more sure word of prophecy.”: That original arrangement of the sentence supports the interpretation that Peter is ranking Scripture over experience. The prophetic word (Scripture), is more complete, more permanent, and more authoritative than the experience of anyone.

More specifically, the Word of God is a more reliable verification of the teachings about the person, atonement, and second coming of Christ than even the genuine first hand experiences of the apostles themselves.

“Ye do well that ye take heed”: Peter was warning believers that since they would be exposed to false teachers, they must pay careful attention to Scripture.

“A light that shineth in a dark place”: The murky darkness of this fallen world keeps people from seeing the truth until the light shines.

The light is the lamp of revelation, the Word of God (Psalm 119:105; John 17:17). Believers will have a new understanding in their hearts of the magnitude of His future revelation in glory, as represented by the arising of “the day dawn, and the day star,” clear expressions of the coming of Christ.

Peter says here, that the Word of prophecy fulfilled in Jesus Christ is even greater evidence than the transfiguration. Jesus is the Light of the world.

Psalm 119:105 AMPC

105 Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.

The Word of God, both spoken and written, are the light that directs us unto all Truth.

"Day star": in this instance, means bearer of the Light. ***"In your hearts"***: The second coming will have not only an externally transforming impact on the universe (3:7- 13), but also an internally transforming impact on those believers who are alive when Jesus returns, forever removing any of their remaining doubts.

The perfect, but limited revelation of the Scriptures will be replaced with the perfect and complete revelation of Jesus Christ at the second coming (John 14:7-11; 21:25). Then the Scriptures will have been fulfilled; and believers, made like Christ (1 John 3:1-2), will have perfect knowledge and all prophecy will be abolished.

2 Peter 1:20 AMPC

20 [Yet] first [you must] understand this, that no prophecy of Scripture is [a matter] of any personal or private or special interpretation (loosening, solving).

2 Peter 1:20 KJV

20 Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation.

“Knowing this first”: A call to recognize His truth as priority, namely that Scripture is not of human origin. **“Prophecy of the scripture”:** This phrase includes not only specific prophetic teachings, but the totality of God’s grand revelation of Himself and His plan for time and eternity in the entire Word of God.

No Scripture was privately originated in human will, released from a mere human mind, or understood by one’s own power. Scripture is not the product of mere human interpretation of historical events, but the result of God’s own initiative.

“Of any private interpretation”: The Greek word for “interpretation” has the idea of a “loosing,” as if to say no Scripture is the result of any human being privately, “untying” and “loosing” the truth.

Peter’s point is not so much about how to interpret Scripture, but rather how Scripture originated, and what its source was...the false prophets untied and loosed their own ideas.

But no part of God's revelation was unveiled or revealed from a human source or out of the prophet's unaided understanding (see verse 21). We see from this, that all who are guided by the Holy Spirit of God can get their own message from God from any Scripture.

The smallest, uneducated child, who is searching for answers in the Scriptures, can have his or her own understanding of any Scripture. The greatest scholar, who is not guided by the great Teacher (Holy Spirit), however, might not understand the simplest Scripture.

1 Corinthians 2:14 AMPC

14 But the natural, nonspiritual man does not accept or welcome or admit into his heart the gifts and teachings and revelations of the Spirit of God, for they are folly (meaningless nonsense) to him; and he is incapable of knowing them [of progressively recognizing, understanding, and becoming better acquainted with them] because they are spiritually discerned and estimated and appreciated.

2 Peter 1:21 AMPC

21 For no prophecy ever originated because some man willed it [to do so—it never came by human impulse], but men spoke from God who were borne along (moved and impelled) by the Holy Spirit.

2 Peter 1:21 KJV

21 For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.

“By the will of man”: As Scripture is not of human origin, neither is it the result of human will. The emphasis in the phrase is that no part of Scripture was ever at any time produced because men wanted it so...The Bible is not the product of human effort.

The prophets, in fact, sometimes wrote what they could not fully understand (1 Peter 1:10-11), but they were faithful to write what God revealed to them.

1 Peter 1:10-11 AMPC

10 The prophets, who prophesied of the grace (divine blessing) which was intended for you, searched and inquired earnestly about this salvation.

11 They sought [to find out] to whom or when this was to come which the Spirit of Christ working within them was indicating when He predicted the sufferings of Christ and the glories that should follow [them].

“Moved by the Holy Ghost”: The inspired writers of the sacred Scripture were “holy men of God” who were moved, borne along, guided, and impelled by the Holy Spirit. The Spirit guided their thoughts and writings, without suppressing their individual styles and vocabularies, that they composed and recorded (without error), in the original manuscripts the exact words God intended (2 Tim. 3:16).

2 Timothy 3:16 AMPC

16 Every Scripture is God-breathed (given by His inspiration) and profitable for instruction, for reproof and conviction of sin, for correction of error and discipline in obedience, [and] for training in righteousness (in holy living, in conformity to God’s will in thought, purpose, and action)

Grammatically, this means that they were continually carried or borne along by the Spirit of God (Luke 1:70; Acts 27:15, 17). The Holy Spirit is the divine author and originator, the producer of the Scriptures.

In the Old Testament alone, the human writers refer to their writings as the words of God over 3800 times (e.g. Jer. 1:4; 1 Pet. 3:2; Rom. 3:2; 1 Cor. 2:10). Though the human writers of Scripture were active rather than passive in the process of writing Scripture, God the Holy Spirit superintended them so that, using their own individual personalities, thought processes, and vocabulary, they composed and recorded without error the exact words God wanted written.

The original copies of Scripture are therefore inspired, i.e., God-Breathed (2 Tim. 3:16), and inerrant, i.e., without error (John 10:34-35; 17:17; Titus 1:2). Peter defined the process of inspiration which created an inerrant original text (Prov. 30:5; 1 Cor. 14:36; 1 Thess. 2:13).

The scriptures were written by about 40 holy authors of God as they were moved by the Holy Spirit. While in no way denying the personalities of the human writers or rejecting the distinctiveness of their particular styles, the Holy Spirit controlled the process of bringing things to the writers' memories (John 16:13), and ensuring what they recorded was the very Word of God.

We can be confident reading the Bible that it is the very Word of God (Judges 2:1; John 10:35). God is the Author of the Bible.

True/righteous (pastors, preachers, teachers) of God can not bring their own message to the church. They can only speak the message God has placed into their heart.

Luke 12:11-12 AMPC

11 And when they bring you before the synagogues and the magistrates and the authorities, do not be anxious [beforehand] how you shall reply in defense or what you are to say.

12 For the Holy Spirit will teach you in that very hour and moment what [you] ought to say.

John 16:13-14 AMPC

13 But when He, the Spirit of Truth (the Truth-giving Spirit) comes, He will guide you into all the Truth (the whole, full Truth). For He will not speak His own message [on His own authority]; but He will tell whatever He hears [from the Father; He will give the message that has been given to Him], and He will announce and declare to you the things that are to come [that will happen in the future].

14 He will honor and glorify Me, because He will take of (receive, draw upon) what is Mine and will reveal (declare, disclose, transmit) it to you.



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