

Women's Bible Study

2Peter 1:13-21

May 15th, 2024 Sharyn Balogh

Two weeks ago, we looked at Peter's reminder to the early Christians; that it was vitally important for them to be resolute in the understanding and practice of their faith. ***Do you recall why the Apostle did this?***

The Apostle knew that everything needed to live in holiness was supplied through knowing God, through having a relationship with Him. He knew the promises and protection of God. He understood the power of God and He knew it was God alone who guaranteed eternal salvation. Because these things were so important, those who once had proclaimed to know God needed to be living for Him and growing in their understanding of Him. The Apostle also knew that his time on earth was coming to an end. He saw his opportunity to encourage those he loved to continue pressing forward. Peter continued this same thought in his second letter to the church.

2Peter 3:1-2 This is now, beloved, the second letter I am writing to you in which I am stirring up your sincere mind by way of reminder, that you should remember the words spoken beforehand by the holy prophets and the commandment of the Lord and Savior spoken by your apostles.

2Peter 1:13-14 I consider it right, as long as I am in this earthly dwelling, to stir you up by way of reminder, knowing that the laying aside of my earthly dwelling is imminent, as also our Lord Jesus Christ has made clear to me.

Our ***earthly dwelling*** is temporary. The meaning of these words is 'an encampment'; or the body as a tenement for the soul. An encampment is a temporary living quarter. Think of setting up a tent or trailer in a campground, at the end of your stay everything is taken down and put away because you will be moving on either to another destination or to return to the dwelling where you live. Our bodies, the things surrounding us, our earthly treasures and belongings, are temporary. One day we will be called to our permanent home in Heaven with Christ.

2Corinthians 5:1-4 For we know that if the earthly tent which is our house is torn down, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. For indeed in this house we groan, longing to be clothed with our dwelling from heaven, inasmuch as we, having put it on, will not be found naked. For indeed while we are in this tent, we groan, being burdened, because we do not want to be unclothed but to be clothed, so that what is mortal will be swallowed up by life.

2Corinthians 5:6-8 Therefore, being always of good courage, and knowing that while we are at home in the body we are absent from the Lord – for we walk by faith, not by sight – we are of good courage, I say, and prefer rather to be absent from the body and to be at home with the Lord.

In 1Peter 1:13 we read the phrase, ***‘to stir you up by way of reminder’***. He is purposed to awake them or arouse them of what they previously knew. If you consider why someone would need to wake up, it is likely that they had been asleep. Have you ever thought to yourself, *‘I’ll keep that information in the back of my mind’*? The hope is that you will recall it later when it is needed. Our faith is not something we keep in our back pocket to be used at a different time. Walking by faith or living by faith is a moment-by-moment lifestyle.

We can know how we are to act and what we are to think, yet we need to be diligent to put what we have learned to practice. Is your mind clear on what you believe and why? Are your intentions purposed to glorify God in all things? The Apostle knows his time on earth is short, as a result, his reminder to be diligent becomes more intense. It is reasonable for each of us to follow his example in having the same mindset. Think of the word complacent. This word means to be self-satisfied, not looking to improve. The opposite of this word is to be humble, recognizing there is always room for improvement.

If we look back to the Old Testament, we will find the account of Haggai reproving the leaders of the Jews for paying more attention to building up their own houses and wealth while neglecting to build up the Temple (*Haggai Chapter One*). Yes, if you have placed your complete trust in Jesus you are saved and have the promise of eternal life. This is the greatest gift man can

receive. Be certain your life proves your salvation and your salvation produces legitimate fruit. Let's not be remiss in honoring God for His most marvelous gift of grace.

“As soon as they came up out of captivity they set up an altar for sacrifice, and within a year after laid the foundations of a temple, [Ezra 3:10](#). They then seemed very forward in it, and it was likely enough that the work would be done suddenly; but, being served with a prohibition some time after from the Persian court, and charged not to go on with it, they not only yielded to the force, when they were actually under it, which might be excused, but afterwards, when the violence of the opposition had abated, they continued very indifferent to it, had no spirit nor courage to set about it again, but seemed glad that they had a pretense to let it stand still. Though those who are employed for God may be driven off from their work by a storm, yet they must return to it as soon as the storm is over”. *Matthew Henry's Commentary*

When we are discouraged for a time, when life's circumstances become difficult and heavy, do we turn to God, or do we become so busy tending to ourselves that we neglect the One who has ransomed us? Do we answer God's call to duty with the words, 'not yet', in order to accommodate ourselves?

Let's be encouraged to worship God with our lives through all circumstances.

1Peter 1:14 knowing that the laying aside of my earthly dwelling is imminent, as also our Lord Jesus Christ has made clear to me.

John 21:17-19 He *said to him the third time, "Simon, son of John, do you love Me?" Peter was grieved because He said to him the third time, "Do you love Me?" And he said to Him, "Lord, You know all things; You know that I love You." Jesus *said to him, "Tend My sheep. "Truly, truly, I say to you, when you were younger, you used to gird yourself and walk wherever you wished; but when you grow old, you will stretch out your hands and someone else will gird you, and bring you where you do not wish to go." Now this He said, signifying by what

kind of death he would glorify God. And when He had spoken this, He *said to him, "Follow Me!"

Peter had been given knowledge of what kind of death he would endure. Perhaps he also had insight into when it might occur. For all of us, death is imminent. There is a time set for our earthly bodies to die. It is likely we will not be martyred for our faith however are we willing to die to our own self and live for Christ. ***Are we prepared? Are we excited to meet our Lord and Savior face to face having genuinely sought to honor Him on Earth?***

2Peter 1:15 And I will also be diligent that at any time after my departure you will be able to call these things to mind.

What better legacy can we leave for those we love than to have stirred them up in Truth and encouraged them to seek to understand the livelihood of their faith?

Perhaps we can think of the Apostle's message this way – ***Christ is all and all is in Christ.*** Consider the value of your days as you get older. At one point it is evident that we have less days ahead of us and more behind us. Each day then becomes that much more precious to live for Jesus. I used to think there was so much time for me still left on this earth. Now, I am praising God each morning I wake up with breath in my lungs and pray that the gift of another day will be pleasing to my Father in Heaven.

If you listen carefully to the Apostle's words you will hear the conviction of truth in his voice. Think of the benefits of your salvation, the hope you have because of the Gospel. ***How can we not be compelled to spur one another on in love by our words and our works?***

Jesus called Peter to be an Apostle, to leave all behind to follow Him. He was called to write two Epistles for the benefit of causing others to be encouraged in the Lord. His greatest desire was to further God's Kingdom by promoting His Truths. Peter's motivation was his love for Jesus. In the next several verses, the Apostle goes on to explain why he is justified in making this plea for them to remember what he has diligently expressed.

2Peter 1:16-21 For we did not follow cleverly devised tales when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses of His majesty. For when He received honor and glory from God the Father, such an utterance as this was made to Him by the Majestic Glory, “This is MY beloved Son with whom I am well-pleased” – and we ourselves heard this utterance made from heaven when we were with Him on the holy mountain. So we have the prophetic word made more sure, to which you do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star arises in your hearts. But know this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture is a matter of one’s own interpretation, for no prophecy was ever made by an act of human will, but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.

The Apostle saw with his own eyes and heard with his own ears the testimony of God’s love for His Son. In these six verses, the truth of the trinity is revealed. God the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. No mere man could have written and performed such a script as God has done. Only those whom God has called will understand the marvelous light of His holy words.

When we read about ‘*cleverly devised tales*’, these are the explanations that man has built on man’s wisdom. When this was written, mythology and its offerings were in abundance. Man is always looking to answers and rather than accept the truth of the gospel – which requires a humble spirit which recognizes help is needed – they create their own gods. We easily see this all around us today.

2Corinthians 2:17 For we are not like many, peddling the word of God, but as from sincerity, but as from God, we speak in Christ in the sight of God.

1Corinthians 2:4 and my message and my preaching were not in persuasive words of wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power,

Imagine being an eyewitness of God’s majesty! It would be impossible to refute what you had seen with your own eyes and heard with your own ears.

Matthew 17:1-2 Six days later Jesus *took with Him Peter and James and John his brother, and *led them up on a high mountain by themselves. And He was transfigured before them; and His face shone like the sun, and His garments became as white as light.

1John 1:1-3 What was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked at and touched with our hands, concerning the Word of Life – and the life was manifested, and we have seen and testify and proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and was manifested to us – what we have seen and heard we proclaim to you also, so that you too may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father, and with His Son Jesus Christ.

1John 4:14 We have seen and testify that the Father has sent the Son to be the Savior of the world.

This section of scripture certainly explains the urgency in Peter's message. He knew firsthand that Jesus was God's Son, that His death was born for mankind's sin and that eternal life was offered to those who believed, and that judgment would come upon the world.

How do you view the Bible?

What is your response to these truths?

How have you witnessed God's miraculous power in your life?

2Peter 1:19 So we have the prophetic word made more sure, to which you do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star arises in your hearts.

Are you drawn towards the light or have you sought to cover it, desiring instead to follow the wisdom of the world?

These questions may seem rhetorical or redundant in a Bible study, however part of loving one another is the encouragement to make certain our beloved sisters have right understanding. We also will do well to check our own hearts

and the basis of our faith so that we have assurance of our entrance into God's kingdom. (2Peter 1:10-11)

There is a reminder and perhaps a warning in verses 20-21. God's word is not given for us to manipulate and change to fit our purposes. God's word is given to teach us of His majesty and promises, to change us to His likeness for His purpose. It is God's perfect revelation, and all is true and will happen just as it is written.

“that no man nor company of men, no church nor public officers, are to interpret the Scripture of their own heads, according to their own minds, so as to make their private sense be the sense of the Scripture, but to seek the understanding of it from God, who shows them the meaning of the word in the word itself, (the more obscure places being expounded by the more clear), and by his Spirit leads believers, in their searching the Scripture, into the understanding of his mind in it: God himself being the author of the word, as 2Pe 1:21, is the best interpreter of it”, Matthew Pool's Commentary.

2Timothy 3:16-17 All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.