
Sermon Notes

February 18, 2024

First Congregational Church of Pomfret

An Important Reminder 2 Peter 1:12-15

Repetition

- ❖ Peter provides a bridge between what he has already written about diligently pursuing spiritual maturity and the attack he is about to launch on false teachers
 - Peter commends his readers for what they already know and do
 - Peter underscores the weight of responsibility he feels to leave behind a solid spiritual legacy
- ❖ Peter is a kind shepherd who understands and exhibits sensitivity for his flock
 - he does not belittle or "baby" those to whom he writes
 - at the same time, he knows that "repetition is the mother of learning"
- ❖ Peter knows from his own personal experience and the history of his defection from Jesus how much protection we need
 - there is **NO NEW TRUTH**
 - **there IS** clearer and deeper understanding of truth
 - there IS greater appreciation of truth

- ❖ there **IS** clearer and deeper understanding of truth
- ❖ We need repeated reminders of what God repeatedly says
 - lasting growth depends on the solid foundation upon which it is based
 - the world is always trying to squeeze us into its mold (Romans 12:2)
 - false Christians are never in short supply and always intent upon promoting misguided brands of Christianity

Memory

- ❖ Do not put your faculty of memory into "early retirement"
 - the importance of memory in the ongoing development of our spiritual lives
 - even though your outer self is wasting away, your inner self is being renewed day by day (2 Corinthians 4:16)
 - your inward renewal and transformation requires effort, discipline and intentionality
 - you **CAN** remember! [shampoo... rinse... repeat!]
- ❖ Peter: "It's no trouble for me to repeat these same things over to you, in fact, it's very important for your well-being that I do so."
- ❖ God's truth
 - remember and rehearse it
 - review it by reciting it to others
- ❖ Throughout the OT, Israel is called to remember, remember, remember

- annual festivals and celebrations become opportunities for the mind transforming, life-renewing eating and drinking of truth (Passover)
- God wants His people to keep these things at the forefront of their minds to color and shape their wills, intellects, emotions and behavior
- ❖ The Lord Supper ("In remembrance of Me")
- ❖ Paul's ministry of "reminders" (1 Corinthians 4:17, 15:1-2, Romans 15:14-15)
- ❖ Remembering with a purpose
 - not just remembering the facts of the gospel but remembering how the gospel is meant to transform my life today
 - remembering God's call to holy living
- ❖ We ALWAYS need reminders to apply Biblical truth to our lives

Legacy

- ❖ As Peter sees the finish line of his life drawing nearer, his heart's desire is that he leave behind a lasting legacy of spiritual truth
- Peter wants his words to live on in the hearts, minds, and lives of his readers
- Peter's example reminds us to keep our mortality in view
 - **body** = tent, tabernacle
 - thinking of our bodies as a **tent** reminds us of their impermanence (2 Corinthians 5:1-2)
 - our time to glorify God on earth is growing shorter

- as one who knows Christ, Peter's goal is to make Christ known in as many fruitful ways as possible during whatever time remains to him
- ❖ Be watchful and aware of how you employ the time God gives us to go about His business
 - do not be like the rich fool in Luke 12:20
 - book by John Piper: *Don't Waste Your Life*
 - John Wesley: "Do all the good you can, by all the means you can, in all the ways you can, in all the places you can, at all the times you can, to all the people you can, as long as ever you can."
 - Martin Luther: "Even if I knew that tomorrow the world would go to pieces, I would still plant my apple tree."
- ❖ Peter is not talking about making big, grand gestures
 - exercise the ministry of prayer when you are homebound (Missions and Missionary family)
 - seemingly small things can have great significance
- ❖ God planned every one of your days and wrote them down before you were even conceived (Ps 139:14-16)

Personal Reflection

1. What practical steps can you take to use and strengthen your faculty of memory? Will you do so?
2. How convinced are you that there is "no new truth"? Evaluate any ways in which you are "predisposed" to "chase after" new ideas or experiences. How will solidifying the foundation of your faith protect you from falling into such traps?
3. How is God using you to bring glory to Him at this time?