

The Memory and Majesty of God's Word

1 **The Memory and Majesty of God's Word**

2 PETER 1:12-21 – PART 1

2 **2 Peter 1:5-9 (KJV)**

► *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. Yea, I think it meet, as long as I am in this tabernacle, to stir you up by putting you in remembrance; Knowing that shortly I must put off this my tabernacle, even as our Lord Jesus Christ hath shewed me. Moreover I will endeavor that ye may be able after my decease to have these things always in remembrance. 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. For he received from God the Father honor 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. And this voice which came from heaven we heard, when we were with him in the holy mount.*

3 **2 Peter 1:5-9 (LEB)**

► *Therefore I intend to remind you continually concerning these things, although you know them and are established in the truth that you have. But I consider it right, for as long as I am in this habitation, to stir you up by a reminder, because I know that the removal of my habitation is imminent, as indeed our Lord Jesus Christ made clear to me. And I will also make every effort that you are able at any time, after my departure, to recall these things to mind. For we did not make known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ by following ingeniously concocted myths, but by being eyewitnesses of that one's majesty. For he received honor and glory from God the Father when a voice such as this was brought to him by the Majestic Glory, "This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased." And we ourselves heard this voice brought from heaven when we were with him on the holy mountain...*

4 **The Memory of God's Word (1:12-15)**5 **Reminders are necessary because life is short**

- The only sure statistic
 - 1 out of every 1 people die!
 - Hebrews 9:27 -- *And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment:* (Hebrews 9:27, KJV 1900)
- Peter knows his days are numbered. So he wants his readers to remember the important truths he has taught them.
 - *I will ... remind you* (v. 12)
 - *I ... refresh your memory* (v. 13)
 - *you will ... be able to remember* (v. 15; cf. 3:1)
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6 **Even the godly need reminding**

- Peter almost seems apologetic here
 - He was not being critical, nor did he suggest they were wavering.
 - Instead, he said they did know the truths he wrote about and he was aware that they were firmly established in the truth. He wanted them to stay that way. "Established" is from *stērizō*, which means "strengthen" or "be firm."
- Peter wanted to keep on refreshing their memory (present tense).

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▶ *Yea, I think it meet, as long as I am in this tabernacle, to stir you up by putting you in remembrance;* (2 Peter 1:13, KJV 1900)

7 **Why do we need reminding?**

▶ In many churches today, believers know what God expects, but they either:

1. Forget (cf. 2 Peter 1:9) – *But he that lacketh these things is blind, and cannot see afar off, and hath forgotten that he was purged from his old sins.* (2 Peter 1:9, KJV 1900)

▶ When you quit making INTENTIONAL effort and provision to grow spiritually, you forget how precious your salvation is.

▶ My dream Friday night about teaching seminary students on eternal security reminded me how precious that truth is!

2. Are unwilling to live out the truth they now have.

8 **John 10:28-29**

▶ *And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand. My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand.* (John 10:28–29, KJV 1900)

▶ Are you part of "any man?" YES

▶ Can "any man" pluck you out of God's hand? NO

▶ Is there any hand bigger or more powerful than the hand of God? NO

9 **1 Peter 1:3-5**

▶ *Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a living hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you, Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.* (1 Peter 1:3–5, KJV 1900)

▶ You can't lose something that is incorruptible, undefiled, that doesn't fade and is reserved by God in heaven out of the reach of men.

▶ You can lose something that is KEPT BY THE POWER OF GOD until the day of your final salvation (in the last time).

10 **Remember salvation is still in our future**

▶ *Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we SHALL be saved from wrath through him. For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we SHALL be saved by his life.* (Romans 5:9–10, KJV 1900)

▶ I was JUSTIFIED when I was reconciled to God by receiving Jesus as my Lord and Savior.

▶ I am being SANCTIFIED (1 Corinthians 6:11) as the Spirit works daily to conform me to the likeness of Christ (Romans 8:29)

▶ I will be GLORIFIED when I shuffle off this "tabernacle" and enter forever into the presence of Christ.

▶ JUSTIFIED + SANCTIFIED + GLORIFIED = SAVED

▶ So, *Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time* (1 Peter 1:5) means that my salvation is a DONE deal that cannot be lost by those who have truly received it.



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11 **Remember, our body is just a tent**

- ▶ Jesus told Peter it was time to pack up his tent (1:13-15)
- ▶ Peter refers to his body as a tent or temporary dwelling
 - ▶ A tent does not stay up long, nor does it remain in one place for a long time
- ▶ In 1:14, Peter says that Jesus told him that it was near the time that his "tent" would be removed to another place.
 - ▶ This is probably a reference to John 21:18-19 Jesus predicted crucifixion as the method of Peter's death.
 - ▶

12 **John 21:18-19**

- ▶ *Truly, truly I say to you, when you were young, you tied your clothes around yourself and walked wherever you wanted. But when you grow old, you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will tie you up and carry you where you do not want to go. (Now he said this to indicate by what kind of death he would glorify God.) And after he had said this, he said to him, "Follow me!" (John 21:18-19, LEB)*

13 **Remember, we are ALL on a pilgrimage**

- ▶ *Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, to the chosen who are residing temporarily in the dispersion in Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia, (1 Peter 1:1, LEB)*
- ▶ *And if you call on him as Father who judges impartially according to each one's work, conduct yourselves with fear during the time of your temporary residence, (1 Peter 1:17, LEB)*
- ▶ *Dear friends, I urge you as foreigners and temporary residents to abstain from fleshly desires which wage war against your soul, (1 Peter 2:11, LEB)*

14 **Peter practices what he preaches**

- ▶ Peter reminded his readers to make a rich and diligent effort to grow in spiritual intimacy with Jesus Christ.
- ▶ Peter pledges to do the same in his own life. *Moreover I will endeavor that ye may be able after my decease to have these things always in remembrance. (2 Peter 1:15, KJV 1900)*
 - ▶ *Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall: (2 Peter 1:10, KJV 1900)*
 - ▶ *Wherefore, beloved, seeing that ye look for such things, be diligent that ye may be found of him in peace, without spot, and blameless. (2 Peter 3:14, KJV 1900)*

15 **Death is not an end but a departure**

- ▶ Peter uses the word ἔξοδον to explain the fact that he is going to die.
 - ▶ This is the same word from which we get Exodus and exit which means *a going out*.
 - ▶ On the Mount of Transfiguration, Jesus, Moses, and Elijah spoke of Jesus "departure" (ἔξοδον).
 - ▶ *Who appeared in glory, and spake of his decease (ἔξοδον), which he should accomplish at Jerusalem. (Luke 9:31, KJV 1900)*
- ▶ This exit in death is in stark contrast with the entrance (εἰσοδος) that we make into abundant living in the presence of God the Father and Jesus Christ our Lord.
 - ▶ *For so an entrance (εἰσοδος) shall be ministered unto you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. (2 Peter 1:11, KJV 1900)*
 - ▶ Good to remember!

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16 **We make an exit to make a more glorious entrance!**17 **Peter left lasting reminders**

- ▶ Peter left his readers two epistles to provide a written testimony of the truths that were so dear to his heart.
- ▶ Many Bible scholars believe that Peter also had a role in helping prepare the Gospel of Mark.
- ▶ His own life and ministry greatly influenced Silas and Mark carried on his work after he died. Peter made certain that the Lord's people would not forget God's work in God's Word.

18 **The Majesty of God's Word (1:16-18)**19 **The Word of God**

- ▶ We have the Word of God in the Bible. It is a collection of 66 books
 - ▶ written by more than 40 authors
 - ▶ over 2500 mi.²
 - ▶ over 1500 years
 - ▶ with no contradictions between any part of it.
- ▶ It is a supernatural Word that is unequaled by any attempts to add to it. It is written entirely by eyewitnesses who received direct revelation from God.
 - ▶ This statement cannot be said of the Apocrypha or the books of any cult.

20 **The Incarnate Word -- Christ**

- ▶ Beginning in 1:16, Peter focuses on the Incarnate Word of God which is Jesus Christ. This is the same way of referring to Christ in John 1.
 - ▶ *In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made.* (John 1:1-3, KJV 1900)
 - ▶ Incarnate Word = same = Him = Christ the Creator and Redeemer

21 **The Word on which Peter's faith rested**

- ▶ Peter's faith did not rest on cunningly devised fables (1:16). His faith did not rest on clever stories (μύθοις or myths) as did the doctrines of the false teachers that Peter attacks in 2 Peter 2.
- ▶ True faith is founded on historical facts set down by the eyewitnesses of Christ in the New Testament and the eyewitnesses of the workings and revelations of Jehovah in the Old Testament.
 - ▶ The Bible canon is closed with the death of the last eyewitness.
 - ▶ Scripture was not intended to include the Apocrypha or Deutero-canon (a false term) For the same reason that the Book of Mormon is not a word from God.

22 **The Majestic Second Coming of Christ**

- ▶ Peter gives us an excellent example of a doctrine that is based on an eyewitness account when he refers to the return of the Lord Jesus Christ.
 - ▶ *For he received from God the Father honor 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. And this voice which came from heaven we heard, when we were with him in the holy mount.* (2 Peter 1:17-18, KJV 1900)

23 **The Mount of Majestic Transfiguration**

- ▶ Peter speaks of his experience on the Mount of Transfiguration at which time he saw a true revelation of Christ's Majesty.
 - ▶ He considered this doctrine of great importance infrequently reminds his readers of it. This

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experience proved to Peter that Christ would return to earth at a later time just as Moses and Elijah make an appearance at a later time.

- ▶ It is interesting that Peter wanted to build temporary tabernacles to commemorate a vision into eternity in Matthew 17, but now realizes he must put away his earthly tabernacle in order to enjoy that same eternity.

▶ *Then answered Peter, and said unto Jesus, Lord, it is good for us to be here: if thou wilt, let us make here three tabernacles; one for thee, and one for Moses, and one for Elias.* (Matthew 17:4, KJV 1900) – *Right answer; wrong timing.... (Feast of Tabernacles)*

24 **Matthew****17:1-8**

- ▶ *And after six days Jesus taketh Peter, James, and John his brother, and bringeth them up into an high mountain apart, And was transfigured before them: and his face did shine as the sun, and his raiment was white as the light. And, behold, there appeared unto them Moses and Elias talking with him. Then answered Peter, and said unto Jesus, Lord, it is good for us to be here: if thou wilt, let us make here three tabernacles; one for thee, and one for Moses, and one for Elias. While he yet spake, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them: and behold a voice out of the cloud, which said, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased; hear ye him. And when the disciples heard it, they fell on their face, and were sore afraid. And Jesus came and touched them, and said, Arise, and be not afraid. And when they had lifted up their eyes, they saw no man, save Jesus only.* (Matthew 17:1–8, KJV 1900)

25 **What happened on that mountain?**

- ▶ Jesus was transfigured (*μετεμορφώθη*), "changed in form"; cf. Rom. 12:2; 2 Cor. 3:18) before this inner circle of disciples (Matthew 17:2).
 - ▶ This revealed Jesus' glory and majesty.
 - ▶ The radiance of His glory was evidenced in His face and in His garments that became as white as the light.
 - ▶ Moses and Elijah appeared from heaven in some visible form and talked with Jesus (thus demonstrating that conscious existence follows death). Luke wrote that Moses and Elijah talked with Jesus about His coming death (Luke 9:31).
- ▶ Matthew 17 fulfills the promise Jesus made in Matthew 16:28 -- *Verily I say unto you, There be some standing here, which shall not taste of death, till they see the Son of man coming in his kingdom.* (Matthew 16:28, KJV 1900)

26 **Why were Moses and Elijah there?**

- ▶ These two men and the disciples suggest all the categories of people who will be in Jesus' coming kingdom.
 - ▶ The disciples represent individuals who will be present in physical bodies in Christ's coming kingdom (which points to a Millennial reign).
 - ▶ Moses represents saved individuals who have died or will die.
 - ▶ Elijah represents saved individuals who will not experience death but will be caught up to heaven alive. *Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.* (1 Thessalonians 4:17, KJV 1900)
- ▶ These three groups will be present when Christ institutes His kingdom on earth.

27 **This was a GLORIOUS event!**

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- ▶ *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. For he received from God the Father honor 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.* (2 Peter 1:16–17, KJV 1900)
- ▶ Peter had a burning desire to communicate the true majesty of the Savior which he, a member of the inner band of disciples, was uniquely privileged to see.
- ▶ Peter wanted his readers to look beyond Christ's first coming to the time when He will return with that same honor and glory He demonstrated on the mountain. In Peter's preaching during the days of the early church he was firmly committed to the doctrine of the Second Coming (Acts 2:32–33, 36; 3:16, 20–21).

28 **Peter on the Day of Pentecost**

- ▶ *This Jesus hath God raised up, whereof we all are witnesses. Therefore being by the right hand of God exalted and having received of the Father the promise of the Holy Ghost, he hath shed forth this, which ye now see and hear.* (Acts 2:32–33, KJV 1900)
- ▶ *Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly, that God hath made that same Jesus, whom ye have crucified, both Lord and Christ.* (Acts 2:36, KJV 1900) – God AND the Messiah!
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- ▶
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29 **Peter at the temple called Beautiful (Acts 3)**

- ▶ *Then Peter said, Silver and gold have I none; but such as I have give I thee: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth rise up and walk.* (Acts 3:6, KJV 1900)
- ▶ *And as the lame man which was healed held Peter and John, all the people ran together unto them in the porch that is called Solomon's, greatly wondering. And when Peter saw it, he answered unto the people, Ye men of Israel, why marvel ye at this? ... The God of Abraham, and of Isaac, and of Jacob, the God of our fathers, hath glorified his Son Jesus; ... And you killed the Prince of life, whom God hath raised from the dead; whereof we are witnesses. And his name through faith in his name hath made this man strong* (Acts 3:11–16, KJV 1900)
- ▶
- ▶

30 **Peter more impressed by what he heard than by what he saw**

- ▶ *For he received from God the Father honor 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. And this voice which came from heaven we heard, when we were with him in the holy mount.* (2 Peter 1:17–18, KJV 1900)
- ▶ What's that mean for me?
 - ▶ *So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.* (Romans 10:17, KJV 1900)
 - ▶ I need to be in the Bible (where we hear God's Words) and I need to HEAR the Bible as a valuable part of my Christian spiritual growth.
 - ▶ That Word takes precedence over what we SEE in visions or in the traditions of men.
- ▶
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31 **The Meaning of God's Word**

NEXT TIME – 2 PETER 1:19-21