

Refuge City Church — April 18, 2021
“Vigilant Life: The Light of Truth” (2 Peter 1:12-21)

Introduction (2 Peter 1:12-15)

12 Therefore I intend always to remind you of these qualities, though you know them and are established in the truth that you have. **13** I think it right, as long as I am in this body, to stir you up by way of reminder, **14** since I know that the putting off of my body will be soon, as our Lord Jesus Christ made clear to me. **15** And I will make every effort so that after my departure you may be able at any time to recall these things.

- REMINDERS:

- Knowing God and the power He gives us, along with the promise of the Holy Spirit.
- We’ve been given the keys to the kingdom. What are you doing to get from Faith — Love?
- Peter supplied us a special list of ways we actively participate to “work out our salvation”.
 - Virtue, Knowledge, Self-control, Perseverance, Godliness, Kindness, and Love.
 - Do any of those areas have a “check engine light” on in your life?
 - The only true way to fix those issues is to go to the Word of God.
 - **John 16:33**, “...In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world.”
 - **Isaiah 40:8**, “The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever.”
- **EXAMPLE:** Training in counterfeit money
 - Spend more time with the real deal, study it, feel it, look at it, time and time again.
 - So, that when a counterfeit presents itself, you’ll be able to spot the differences and fallacies.
- Peter knew his time was short. So he was doing all he could to instill the truth of the gospel and God’s Word in to others prior to his death.
 - Do we feel the same sense of urgency?
 - Knowledge about God, without practice is sedentary and meaningless... A life in Christ without growth is no life at all.

2 Peter 1:16-19

16 For we did not follow cleverly devised myths when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses of his majesty. **17** For when he received honor and glory from God the Father, and the voice was borne to him by the Majestic Glory, “This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased,” **18** we ourselves heard this very voice borne from heaven, for we were with him on the holy mountain. **19** And we have the prophetic word more fully confirmed, to which you will do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts.

- When you know that you know, the truth of what you know is grounded in fact. You know them to be facts because of what you saw or experienced.
 - Peter explains that the truth of what he is presenting is based on his eye-witness account of Christ's transfiguration and glory [Matthew 17; Mark 9; Luke 9]
 - The Transfiguration account recorded in three gospels, but neither of those authors were witness to the event.
 - They each believed and recorded what the eye-witnesses saw and explained.
 - **QUESTION:** What's the importance of a court room stenographer?
 - The requirement of exact record of what was said... The producing of complete, accurate, and secure legal transcripts... The official record allows for users to efficiently search for important information contained in the transcript.
- Now Peter takes the opportunity to explain in his own words what happened on that mountain top, yet uses "we" 6 times to indicate that its not only his truth, but James and John's as well.
 - It would be quite difficult to deny 3 eye-witness accounts of such an experience!
 - 3 eye-witnesses. 3 gospel records of what happened. This is not some mythical tale of persuasion. This is the truth of God's Word!
 - Each gospel account records the very words of God that each disciple audibly heard, "This is my beloved Son... Listen to Him."
 - The very words of God Almighty, declaring the words of His Son as truth!
 - **John 1:1**, "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God."
 - **John 14:6**, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."
 - **John 17:8**, "For I have given them the words that you gave me, and they have received them and have come to know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me."
 - **Psalm 119:160**, "The sum of your word is truth, and every one of your righteous rules endures forever."
- This singular event brings credibility to all Peter is proclaiming in this letter.
 - To know the Truth, to combat false gospels & teachers, because Jesus coming again in glory.
 - So for a short time, we may endure hardships or suffering, but that only leads to glory [as in the example of Jesus]
- **Verse 19: 19** And we have the prophetic word more fully confirmed, to which you will do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts.
 - The Word is truth. Pay attention to it!

John 5:31-47

31 If I alone bear witness about myself, my testimony is not true. **32** There is another who bears witness about me, and I know that the testimony that he bears about me is true. **33** You sent to

John, and he has borne witness to the truth. **34** Not that the testimony that I receive is from man, but I say these things so that you may be saved. **35** He was a burning and shining lamp, and you were willing to rejoice for a while in his light. **36** But the testimony that I have is greater than that of John. For the works that the Father has given me to accomplish, the very works that I am doing, bear witness about me that the Father has sent me. **37** And the Father who sent me has himself borne witness about me. His voice you have never heard, his form you have never seen, **38** and you do not have his word abiding in you, for you do not believe the one whom he has sent. **39** You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is they that bear witness about me, **40** yet you refuse to come to me that you may have life. **41** I do not receive glory from people. **42** But I know that you do not have the love of God within you. **43** I have come in my Father's name, and you do not receive me. If another comes in his own name, you will receive him. **44** How can you believe, when you receive glory from one another and do not seek the glory that comes from the only God? **45** Do not think that I will accuse you to the Father. There is one who accuses you: Moses, on whom you have set your hope. **46** For if you believed Moses, you would believe me; for he wrote of me. **47** But if you do not believe his writings, how will you believe my words?"

- Eternal life comes through meeting and encountering Jesus, not through Bible Study, even though it is through the study of God's Word we come to know Jesus better.
- God the Father bore witness about His Son **[Jesus' baptism; transfiguration; whole of scripture]**
- John the Baptist bore witness about Jesus as the light and as the lamb of God.
- Moses bore witness about Jesus through his writing of the first 5 books of the Bible.
- According to Jesus, everyone He was speaking to accepted God, Moses, and John for a short while, but failed to see who they all pointed to as truth, light, sacrifice, and salvation.
- **Psalm 119:105, 107**, "Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path... I am severely afflicted; give me life, O Lord, according to your word!"
- **Psalm 23:4**, "Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me."
 - The Word of God will remain until all hear, and God decides to send Jesus to come again.
 - **Revelation 22:16**, "I am the root and the descendant of David, the bright morning star."... Jesus is our 'morning star'. **[Venus as the brightest 'star' in the sky just before a new day]**

2 Peter 1:20-21

20 knowing this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture comes from someone's own interpretation. **21** For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.

- This admonition to seek God's Word. In it lies truth and points of light that lead to the ultimate Light of the World.

- Stranger Things: Will gets caught in the ‘upside down’ [parallel universe that is full of darkness and death]. In order to connect and communicate where he is, he uses lights to point the way.
 - When Joyce, his mom, finally realizes what is happening and believes her son is alive, despite being considered crazy by everyone else, she knows the truth that Will is communicating to her through the lights.
 - She connects Christmas lights to coincide with the alphabet, and Will shines the light on each letter to show her the way to save him, and the truth that he is in fact alive.
 - It was then up to Joyce to show others the way by the light.
- When we take the whole of God’s Word, and connect all the prophetic ‘lights’ together, they will speak to the reality of who Jesus is, and in that way, show us the way to salvation!
 - These are not individuals who contrived these stories on their own. They were inspired by the Holy Spirit to give us the full account of God’s Word.
 - John Calvin would remark that the prophets ‘did not blab their inventions of their own accord or according to their own judgments.’
 - The prophet Jeremiah and Ezekiel condemned those who did such a thing!
 - **Ezekiel 13:3**, “Thus says the Lord God, Woe to the foolish prophets who follow their own spirit, and have seen nothing!”
 - **Jeremiah 23:16-17**, “Thus says the Lord of hosts: “Do not listen to the words of the prophets who prophesy to you, filling you with vain hopes. They speak visions of their own minds, not from the mouth of the Lord. They say continually to those who despise the word of the Lord, ‘It shall be well with you’; and to everyone who stubbornly follows his own heart, they say, ‘No disaster shall come upon you.’”
 - All they are offering is false hope that is not based on any word from God.
 - **REMEMBER:** What can the world offer you apart from Christ?
 - “The ever unsatisfied longing of a hungry soul results in faintness of spirit and sickness of heart. Such is the hopeless hope of the Christ-less. How blessed the contrast in the case of the Christian!” [Harry Ironside]

Response/Prayer

- Be vigilant. Remember the Word and it’s purpose for your life. Allow it to light your path, and keep at bay those who would try and sell you a different/false gospel.
- Is God’s Word important to you?
 - How many of those hours are you spending in God’s Word?
 - If we lost all physical & electronic record of God’s Word, how much is stored up in your heart?
 - Is the truth of God’s Word lighting your way through the ‘upside down’?
 - **Romans 15:13**, “May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.”