

Remember What Not to Forget

II Peter 1:12-15

INTRODUCTION:

If you would open your Bibles this morning, in a few minutes, we will be reading from II Peter Chapter 1 verses 12-15.

You don't need to be reminded where you live or work or what your kids names are, but you do need constant reminders of something more important than your house or job or your relationship with your children.

We can all relate to a man who stopped at a gas station, paid for his gas and immediately drove away forgetting to pump the gas he just paid for.

We all have moments like that like when we have lost our glasses only to discover that they are resting on our forehead. Or in a moment of daydreaming you drive right past the exit that takes you home or you turn right toward the church instead of turning left to go to the post office, grocery store, or UPS store.

Remembering your glasses or where you are driving IS important. It may save you some valuable time or money. But much more important and crucial to your spiritual life are the reminders that Peter reveals to us this morning.

All Stand and Read Scripture

2 Peter 1:12-15 (NASB)

*¹² Therefore, I will always be ready to remind you of these things, even though you *already* know *them*, and have been established in the truth which is present with *you*. ¹³ I consider it right, as long as I am in this *earthly* dwelling, to stir you up by way of reminder, ¹⁴ knowing that the laying aside of my *earthly* dwelling is imminent, as also our Lord Jesus Christ has made clear to me. ¹⁵ And I will also be diligent that at any time after my departure you will be able to call these things to mind.*

As we prepare to look more closely at Peter's passage this morning, let's bow in a word of prayer.

Prayer

When I preach, I am not trying to reveal some new truth about the Bible, but I am reminding you of what you probably already know. We all, in one way or another, perform in the role of "reminders". That is what we do. We remind people of what the Holy Scripture says. I am not here to give you "**new**" things. **NEW** things are not **TRUE** things. I am not here to give some novel type of insight that I have invented. The point of preaching and teaching is to bring God truths to people's remembrance.

In the New Testament, Peter illustrates this as well as any. Peter is going to help us to look at the big picture of salvation. Too often I think we ignore the big picture and we focus on minor details. It is fine to go down to the details, but we need to start with the big picture. We are going to go back to the foundations of our salvation. Things we do not want to forget.

How did God save you?

What was His goal in doing so?

What is He accomplishing in your life right now?

We don't want to over simplify, but it is really important that you never forget the foundational things. REMEMBER WHAT NOT TO FORGET.

BODY:

I. FORGETFULNESS.

2 Peter 1:12 (NASB)

*¹² Therefore, I will always be ready to remind you of these things, even though you *already* know *them*, and have been established in the truth which is present with *you*.*

The ministry comes down to simply establishing people and then reminding them.

As human beings, we are forgetful about many things.

I am **SO FORGETFUL** at times that I could hide my own Easter eggs!

ILLUSTRATION:

Did you hear about the three old men who were talking one afternoon about how forgetful they were getting? The first one said, "Sometimes I get undressed to get into the shower, and suddenly I can't remember if I'm getting in or getting out."

The second one said, "Well, sometimes I'll find myself on the stairs, and I can't remember if I'm going up or coming down."

The third old man said, "Well, so far I haven't had any of that kind of trouble. I guess I'll just knock on wood and hope that what is happening to you guys doesn't happen to me." So he rapped his knuckles on the arm of his wooden rocking chair, and startled, he said, "Who could be at the door at this time of the day?"

Forgetfulness. We all experience it and it seems to get worse with age. We call these lapses in memory "Senior Moments".

Now, I want to get away from scripture for a few moments and consider how modern science understands the workings of our mind that God created for us.

We function with an amazing instrument called the brain. **For some of us it is less amazing than for others, (Pause)** but none the less, all of us possesses one.

It grants to us a very important spiritual capacity. Everything that you hear, see, or experience in your lifetime is stored in a cell of your brain. There are so many cells in your brain, that nothing is ever really forgotten at all. It is all stored there. The problem for all of us, to some extent, is that we may have a problem retrieving it.

Though everything in the brain is stored, when you recall it, and when you relearn it, and when you apply it, you expand that storage capacity. So the more you use something and the more you hear it, and the more you apply it, the more it occupies a greater part of your thinking process. So as you hear and respond to the Word of God, it begins to take over a larger portion of your thinking process.

Some suggest that we only use 1/10th of 1 percent of our brain.

If I were to pray to God and say, "If I have all of that capacity, please help me to use more of it."

In my case He might reply back, "You are already using all of you've got!" **(Pause)** We all have the capacity to store information in our brains. And it is through repetition that we can make it accessible and remember it.

ILLUSTRATION:

For example I was in the high school play both my Junior and Senior years. I can still remember my name in the Senior play: Alexander Theopolis, Archibald, Harrison, Sagebrush. That has been over 47 years ago. Although I really can't remember much about the play itself, I suppose the reason I can still remember my name is because it was one of my first lines in the play and I was so afraid I would freeze up and forget. I had to work very hard to memorize and my confidence before a crowd was pretty bad. So I repeated it to myself over and over and over again in order to make sure I had it memorized and could repeat it even if I encountered stage fright.

You see, repetition expands the capability of recall. To recall spiritual truth demands repetition and use. So the more you hear and the more you think through and the more you apply spiritual truth the more it begins to dominate your thinking and eventually as this goes on and on it will become almost an involuntary reaction to respond in a spiritually proper manner to a situation. That is because you are so filled with that controlling principle.

Many people go to churches where they are not fed the Word of God. Therefore they do not learn godly principles by which to live. Thus they are at the mercy of the society they are in and they are literally bombarded by the filth of the world through books, newspapers, television, radio, movies, music, corruption in the office, bad teaching in the school, social media, internet, or wherever they are. The flood just keeps on coming. And it leaves all of these impressions on the brain.

Therefore, since our society has media that has social approaches to everything, it seems to me that Christians cannot be sustained on a one day a week diet of spiritual truth. There is no way that you can counter the onslaught of the worldly system unless you expose yourself to the truth of God on a daily basis and feed that into your mind.

If you feed into your mind the ways of the world, your automatic response is going to be an ungodly one. On just a once a week basis, you are not going to be able to sustain control of those things for the glory of God.

This shows the importance of repetitive reminders from God's Word.

II. IMPORTANCE OF REMINDERS.

It is only when you study God's Word daily, that His truths will be on the front of our minds for instant recall.

The more you study, the more they come to the front of your mind and you find as you grow in spiritual maturity that physical responses are almost involuntary. You do not have to think about them, they are instant responses because you are so dominated by the truth of God.

2 Peter 1:13-14 (NASB)

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

Peter knew that he was in his final days. He wanted to minister in the most effective way he possibly could because when we turn old we truly realize how short our stay on earth is.

John 9:4 (NASB)

⁴ We must work the works of Him who sent Me as long as it is day; night is coming when no one can work.

When we hear and study God's Word there is a reminder of God's truths, but there is also an advancement of that knowledge. On the one hand we are always trying to help people to remember the foundations while also exposing them to more Biblical riches about the truths that they remember. It is a process of enriching and enhancing.

Any good teacher knows one thing about his pupils. They forget what you teach them. You know why a teacher knows that? Because he forgets. Any teacher knows that you teach by repetition. The teacher also knows that not only do they forget, but they become so familiar with things that they don't hear them. In other words, if you teach the same truth with the same words they think they know it and don't really hear it. So you teach the same truth in a fresh way. That is how the reminders come. It is when you hear the same truth expressed in a different way that you finally make a connection that you had never made before. You don't need new revelations. You don't need new visions. You

just need to be reminded of the same old timeless eternal divine principles that glorify God.

III. WHAT TO REMEMBER.

Look at verse 15.

2 Peter 1:15 New American Standard Bible (NASB)

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

Notice Peter says, " you will be able to call these things to mind."

What things Peter?

They are things of which he has just spoken. All of the things from verses 1-11. But not only do I want you to remember these things but also the things to follow in verses 16-21.

Last week we covered verses 1-11 in detail and we will be covering verses 16-20 in the next couple of weeks. Let's look once again at what we are to remember. Things we do not want to forget.

Peter says that even though you know it and even though you are established in it, I am going to stick around and make sure that you remember it. He says I want you to know these things so well that if I were to go away permanently, you would never forget them.

What are we supposed to remember Peter?

2 Peter 1:1-2 (NASB)

1 Simon Peter, a bond-servant and apostle of Jesus Christ,

To those who have received a faith of the same kind as ours, by the righteousness of our God and Savior, Jesus Christ: ² Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord;

This is SALVATION CONVERSATION, folks, in those two verses. It talks about faith, righteousness, Savior, grace, peace, and knowledge of God. All of those comprise of salvation conversation. Peter is referring to our redemption.

You may say, "I wouldn't forget that I am saved".

I am not talking about the technical idea of remembering that you are saved. I am talking about remembering all the things that such a salvation should mean to you.

Do you remember where our faith comes from?

Romans 10:17 (NASB)

¹⁷ So faith *comes* from hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ.

Faith is a gift from God.

Ephesians 2:8-9 (NASB)

⁸ For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, *it is the gift of God*; ⁹ not as a result of works, so that no one may boast.

Peter agrees with Paul here in verse 1 that faith is a gift when he says that "we have **received** a faith by the righteousness of God".

The faith that saves is a gift from God by His choosing and we receive it when we hear and accept God's Word. God did not have to give faith to you. It is a marvelous gift!

There is so much to remember and be thankful for concerning our salvation.

1. First of all I am thankful for the reality and assurance of my salvation.
2. That it was given to me by divine allotment of God.
3. That it was given to me on an equal basis of the apostles and everybody else.
4. That it made me equal in a standing before God so that all that is His is mine.
5. That God is multiplying to me grace upon grace and peace upon peace upon me.

All of this is achieved through a life of diligence and maintaining a true, deep and rich knowledge of Christ as Jesus, God, Savior, and Lord.

So much to remember! Don't forget. Don't get tied up with the minor details. Think on the great reality of your salvation.

CONCLUSION:

2 Timothy 2:15 (NASB)

¹⁵ Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, accurately handling the word of truth.

If you do not want to be ashamed as a believer, then you need to be a diligent student of scripture. We need to examine our faith and determine if we truly have an intimate relationship with Christ. Or are we just playing church?

It is going to take a whole lot more than showing up on a Sunday morning and hearing a sermon, although that is important. But every believer needs to think about how he can go beyond that and dig deeply into scripture and through diligence, experience the **graces** of moral excellence, knowledge, self control, perseverance, godliness, brotherly love, and love for God. Peter promises us the multiplication of those **graces** in our life if we are practicing a true saving faith.

We are also promised **peace** from worry of sin and death by knowing that we have a sure salvation.

If you have not accepted Christ as your Lord and Savior, do it today. Don't wait until you have cleaned up your life. **You don't clean yourself up to come to the Christ; you surrender yourself to Christ, to let Him clean you up!**

God Be with You till We Meet Again