

Metro Women's Bible Study

2 Peter 1:12-21

Lesson 3

Peter knew his life on earth was drawing to a close. In his concern that people not fall prey to believing the lies of the false prophets, he felt a strong need to remind the believers in his care of truths they had already been taught. The lessons of this letter reveal to us what was most important to Peter. The truths Peter wrote of were grounded in experiences; experiences that forever etched in his life a love for the Savior and a love for His word.

DAY ONE: Read 2 Peter 1:12-21

1. 2 Peter 1:12-21 has been divided into 2 sections. List below the subject(s) covered in each section.

Verses 12-15

Verses 16-21

a. How would you title these sections?

OPTIONAL: At the right-hand side of the same chart are columns labeled **Key Word** and **Symbol**. They have been provided for you to record the key words and the symbol you have chosen to represent each one. Record the key words listed below and their symbols on the chart.

Previous lesson: *God, Jesus, knowledge (known/knowing), and glory*

New to this lesson: *Holy Spirit, remind/reminding/reminder, tent, and truth*

OPTIONAL: Now, using the symbols you have chosen, mark each of the key words each time they are used in 2 Peter 1:12-21. Remember, as you mark the words *God, Jesus, and Holy Spirit*, to mark any personal pronouns that refer to Them.

2. Note the term of conclusion, *for this reason*, in verse 12. What is the conclusion made and what is it based upon?

3. Peter used the contrasting term *but* in verses 16 and 21. Choose one of them and record the contrast that Peter made.

4. How many times and in what verses is the word *remind* used in Verses 12-21?

DAY TWO: Read 2 Peter 1:12-13

1. What was Peter's great concern for these believers in 2 Peter 1:12-13 & 2 Peter 3:1?

2 Peter 2:12

2 Peter 1:13

2 Peter 3:1

2. Print Peter's determined purpose in response to his concern for them. 2 Peter 1:12a

3. According to the following passages, why was it Peter's purpose to remind them of these things?

John 21:15-17-¹⁵So when they had eaten breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon, *son* of Jonah, do you love Me more than these?" He said to Him, "Yes, Lord; You know that I love You." He said to him, "Feed My lambs."¹⁶He said to him again a second time, "Simon, *son* of Jonah, do you love Me?" He said to Him, "Yes, Lord; You know that I love You." He said to him, "Tend My sheep."¹⁷He said to him the third time, "Simon, *son* of Jonah, 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, "Feed My sheep"

Luke 22:31-32 ³¹And the Lord said, "Simon, Simon! Indeed, Satan has asked for you, that he may sift *you* as wheat. ³²But I have prayed for you, that your faith should not fail; and when you have returned to *Me*, strengthen your brethren."

Peter knew as do all God's anointed preachers & teachers that even where knowledge and establishment exist, there is always a need for motivation and exhortation.

4. Notice the phrase from verse 12: *I will not be negligent to remind you always of these things*. In the midst of cares, business, amusements, and the temptations of the world, Peter knew the importance of truth and the constant and consistent need of it! Are you in a place where you are receiving constant and consistent truth? What ways?

a. Is there anyone in your life that you can *remind*, & *stir up* the truths of God to? How are you doing this?

b. Read Deuteronomy 8:11 & 14. How does this passage go along with Peter's determined purpose?

Deuteronomy 8:11 & 14 "Beware that you do not forget the LORD your God by not keeping His commandments and His ordinances and His statutes which I am commanding you today" for when they were satisfied and content "then your heart will become proud and you will forget the LORD your God who brought you out from the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery."

5. What do we learn about the believers to whom Peter was writing in 2 Peter 1:12b?

a. We would think that having been taught **doctrinal truths** and being **established** well grounded in them, that there would be no need in reminding them of these things. Even though we know them and are established in the present truth, why do we have to be reminded? Look up the following passage. You can add some of your own too!

2 Timothy 3:13-15

b. In practical terms, how can forgetting *these truths* affect our behavior?

Barclay writes that stērizō, established, means to make as solid as granite. Suffering of body and sorrow of heart do one of two things to a man. They either make him collapse or they leave him with a solidity of character which he could never have gained anywhere else. If he meets them with continuing trust in Christ, he emerges like toughened steel that has been tempered in the fire.

6. Read 2 Peter 1:13-14. Observe the word *tent*. This was a common word for the physical body. First century Christians were very aware of the transitoriness of life. Look up the word tent (tabernacle) in your Concordance and write out the English translation.

Tent-

7. What do we learn about our bodies as *tents* from the following passages?

2 Corinthians 5:1 "For we know that if our earthly house, *this* tent, is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens."

2 Corinthians 5:4 "For we who are in *this* tent groan, being burdened, not because we want to be unclothed, but further clothed, that mortality may be swallowed up by life."

DAY THREE: Read 2 Peter 1:14-15

1. In verse 13 Peter said, ¹³*Yes, I think it is right, as long as I am in this tent, to stir you up by reminding you,*” There is urgency in Peter’s expressions in these verses. 2 Peter 1:14 provides an explanation for this. What is it?

2. Look up the word **stir** in your Concordance and write out the English translation.
Stir-

3. This verse makes it clear that Peter knew his death was imminent. The words *just as our Lord Jesus Christ showed me* allude to the Lord’s prophecy to Peter in John 21:18(19). What did Jesus tell Peter?

John 21:18-19a

a. Pause and think about the words of John 21:19. What is most important in our life no matter what our future holds?

4. Historians generally agree that Peter was crucified upside down by Nero, the Emperor of Rome. This apparently happened shortly after this letter was written. How does Peter’s diligence to the body of Christ knowing his time was short inspire you?

5. Peter’s heart’s desire for these believers is evidenced in 2 Peter 1:15. Write this verse here.

6. Peter’s desire was that these believers would *always have a reminder of these things* long after his physical departure from this life. He wanted to make sure he did all that he could to fulfill this desire. Consider the spiritual legacy Peter left to others. What kind of spiritual legacy are you building today that will be left for those you love?

DAY FOUR: Read 2 Peter 1:16-18

1. Thoughtfully write 2 Peter 1:16 phrase by phrase.

2. Look up the words did not follow in your Concordance and write out the English translation.
Did not follow-

3. **Exakoloutheo** is only used in the New Testament in 2 Peter. Look at the following passages and notice the content of these verses. What did you learn from these?

2 Peter 2:2 “And many will follow their sensuality, and because of them the way of the truth will be maligned.”

2 Peter 2:15 “forsaking the right way they have gone astray, having followed the way of Balaam, the son of Beor, who loved the wages of unrighteousness.”

4. What did Peter say they did not follow from Verse 16?

Muthos describes that which is fabricated by the mind in contrast to reality. Muthos in this verse is used in a derogatory, negative sense, referring to stories that are not true or that are just imaginary tales, but which are proclaimed and believed by some people to be true.

It is sad that myth is a word that some so-called theologians of the liberal mindset use to describe the Scriptures, saying for example that the Bible contains myths and even going so far as to say that such myths are an important part of religious truth! The book of Genesis is frequently treated as myth by such men who profess to be wise but have become fools and who regardless of their "belief" today will one day be forced to bow their knee and confess with their tongue that Jesus Christ is Lord to the glory of the Father! And that is no myth!

5. Look up the word *coming* from your Concordance and write out the English translation.

Coming-

6. Christ will come with His saints in manifest glory and will overthrow His foes and establish His kingdom on earth. Below are 5 out of 24 uses of **parousia** that refer to the **return of Christ**. What do you learn from these passages?

1Thesalonians 3:13 “so that He may establish your hearts unblamable in holiness before our God and Father at the **coming** of our Lord Jesus with all His saints.”

1Thesalonians 5:23 “Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be preserved complete, without blame at the **coming** of our Lord Jesus Christ.”

James 5:7-8 “Be patient, therefore, brethren, until the **coming** of the Lord. Behold, the farmer waits for the precious produce of the soil, being patient about it, until it gets the early and late rains. You too be patient; strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand.”

2 Peter 3:12 “looking for and hastening the **coming** of the day of God, on account of which the heavens will be destroyed by burning, and the elements will melt with intense heat!”

1John 2:28 And now, little children, abide in Him, so that when He appears, we may have confidence and not shrink away from Him in shame at His **coming**.

7. Beloved sisters, are you looking for His **parousia**, and living as if it could be today? The sure hope of Christ's return motivates believers (or at least this truth should renew our minds, motivate and energize us) to seek to order our lives in light of the truth that they shall soon see Jesus at His coming. In what ways are you making this real in your lives?

8. Peter was an eyewitness of the majesty of Jesus' transfiguration. Read Peter's testimony from 2 Peter 1:17-18.

Peter's experience at the transfiguration was amazing. Peter solemnly declares that the testimony of the apostles - *testimony they endured torture and gave their lives for* - was not based on clever fables or even half truths, but on eyewitness testimony, that they were eyewitnesses of His majesty.

9. Peter's eyewitness account of the transfiguration in Matthew 17:5 had an important message to Peter. Notice and record the last three words from Matthew 17:5.

Matthew 17:5

10. How would you rate yourself as a listener to those in your life?

a. How would you rate yourself to how well and how consistent you listen and respond to the Lord speaking?

DAY FIVE: Read 2 Peter 1:19-21

1. After using His glorious experience on the *holy mount* to provide evidence for the truth of his message, Peter now confirms the inspiration of the Scriptures. From 2 Peter 1:19a what does Peter say we have?

And so we have the prophetic word confirmed: But even more sure than Peter's personal experience is the testimony of God's word about who Jesus is. The fulfillment of the prophetic word confirmed is a certain, reliable testimony of the truth of the Scriptures. *The prophetic word confirmed* refers to the inerrancy of Scripture as the greatest and clearest revelation of God to man. The word *prophetic* or *prophecy* is used three times in the last three verses of 2 Peter 1.

2. The sentence that began in 2 Peter 1:19 concludes with verse 20. Write what we are to *know first*, according to verse 20?

3. *No prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation*, as far as the writer of the *prophecy* is concerned. That is, the meaning or interpretation does not come from the prophet himself, but from God through the Holy Spirit as 2 Peter 1:21 states. Carefully and thoughtfully write 2 Peter 1:21 considering each phrase.

2 Peter 1:21-

a. How did Scripture come to be written? 2 Peter 1:21

4. The phrase, *moved by the Holy Spirit*, could be read “being carried along by the Holy Spirit”. How do these passages support this?

2 Timothy 3:16- “¹⁶All Scripture *is* given by inspiration of God, and *is* profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness.”

1 Corinthians 2:12-13 “Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, so that we may know the things freely given to us by God, 13 which things we also speak, not in words taught by human wisdom, but in those taught by the Spirit, combining spiritual thoughts with spiritual words.”

Galatians 1:12 “For I neither received it from man, nor was I taught it, but I received it through a revelation of Jesus Christ.”

5. What is the difference between those *holy men who spoke moved by the Holy Spirit* and those mentioned in Titus 1:10-12?

Titus 1:10-12

6. How does knowing that the Scriptures are inspired (God breathed) strengthen your faith?

DAY SIX: Review 2 Peter 1:12-21

1. Recall from the following verses Peter’s desire for believers:

2 Peter 1:12

2 Peter 1:13

2 Peter 1:15

2. If you knew that you *shortly must put off your tent*, what would you write to the ladies in your Bible study?

3. Peter wrote these things to *remind*. We all have a tendency to forget God's truths. What Biblical truth do you often need to be *reminded* of?

4. From 2 Peter 1:16-21, what did you learn that substantiates Peter's claim that he did not follow *cunningly devised fables*?

a. In our present day many religions and philosophies claim to have the truth, or else claim that all roads lead to God. How does this lesson help you refute this?

5. Explain, as you would to someone who believed the Bible was written by men and not inspired by God, why you know the Bible is the Word of God.

6. Record in your Worksheets what you have learned about **“Truths about God, Truths about Jesus, Truths about the Holy Spirit, Truths about the Believer, and Instructions.”**

The law of the LORD is perfect, converting the soul; The testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple; The statutes of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart; The commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes; - Psalm 19:7,8