

“By His Word” (3:7) - do not let this one fact escape your notice: (3:8)
an intentional ignoring of vital, lively truths

As an apostle, Peter had been personally confronted with these. Not only does he teach them, but he was also martyred for his firm conviction regarding them.

Neglecting the reality of God and truth is costly and ungodly

The Source of God’s Word: See 3:1- Hold your minds in a state of attention; unmixed and pure; no noise. (NIV: to stimulate you to wholesome thinking) Remember what you were taught - stay on course; don’t lose these; keep your mind free and clear to be able to absorb and practice God’s truths . . . Phil. 4:8; Romans 12:1-2; Matt. 6:33

- The power of the mind to affect our hearts, emotions, feelings, and actions
- Great and precious promises, *by these you may escape the corruption of the world through lust: 2 Peter 1:3*

To **bolster, strengthen, and fortify** your faith in light of sin’s pollution, which includes the mockers and scoffers who are deliberately ignoring (turning a blind eye to) essential and eternal supernatural truths:

God’s Word is THE Consistent, Reliable Source of Communication:

God’s Prophets: made predictions which were fulfilled and will be fulfilled

God’s Son: the commandment of Jesus, through His apostles: *feed my sheep*

God’s Apostles: A commissioned servant and eyewitness of the resurrection

God’s Creation: The earth was formed out of water; the flood itself is a witness

Other witnesses: The Cross, the Conscience, the Church. . .

The Spirit using God’s Word, and testifying within us . . .

God moves us by addressing our minds with his word, and so bringing to bear on us the force of truth. Affection may be the helm of the ship, but the mind must steer, and the chart to steer is by God’s revealed truth. (Owen)

Lively Truths: The Facts - Flowing from the Person of God and His Revealed Truth
- **Bigger and Greater Facts - Mega Truths which serve as Good News**

1. God's Eternal Perspective: He is Transcendent

- a. With the Lord, one day is like a thousand years. His eternal personhood - eternal and unchanging nature, in all He is and does
- b. God creates time, transcends time, forms and shapes time and history
- c. The ungodly 'attempt' to shrink God down; "Sin always begins with the character assassination of God."
- d. Psalm 90: Where does Peter get this? Pause to consider . .
- e. From everlasting to everlasting, you are God
- f. "The eternal God is a dwelling place, and underneath are the everlasting arms" (Deut. 33:27)
- g. "It is possible that God says every morning, "Do it again" to the sun; and every evening, "Do it again" to the moon. It may not be automatic necessity that makes all daisies alike; it may be that God makes every daisy separately, but has never got tired of making them. It may be that He has the eternal appetite of infancy; for we have sinned and grown old, and our Father is younger than we." (GK Chesterton)
- h. "Stop regarding man, whose breath of life is in his nostrils; for why should he be esteemed?" (Isaiah 2:22)

2. God's Unshakeable Promise: He is Trustworthy

- a. About His Promise: who has made a promise makes all the difference
 - i. He intentionally waits for a reason: to develop our faith and trust
 - ii. He has the right to show up NOW - unannounced, like a thief
- b. All God's promises are yes in Christ: the promises of God are all at work to achieve the ultimate promise: Gen. 3:15- to work out all things together for His ultimate good. Rom. 8:28
 - i. To undo the work of the devil and His corrupting evil influence in the world and in God's people; to rid His world and His people of this parasite . .
- c. Doubts, Mockers . . concerning this truth. Yet, consider what we know
 - i. God has not changed, His truth is unchanged and unchanging
 - ii. Did He create the universe? Was Jesus born of a virgin?
 - iii. Did Jesus die on the cross? Did he rise from the dead?
 - iv. Acts 17: proof of the coming future judgment is the Resurrection
- d. John in Prison: Jesus, what is taking you so long? (Luke 7:18-23)

3. **God's Extreme Patience: He is Tenderhearted**

- a. God is tenderhearted: With the fragile and struggling, "A battered reed He will not break off, and a smoldering wick He will not put out, until He leads justice to victory." (Matthew 12:19)
- b. Romans 2:4; His kindness is our space for repentance . . . He is a good, gentle, lowly shepherd.
- c. See John 10, the Good Shepherd
 - i. "Oh, what a tender, compassionate friend."
- d. God has grace and space enough for you to turn around: Luke 15
- e. What sets Christianity apart? "Oh, that's easy. It's grace" (CS Lewis)?
- f. One measure of godliness and maturity? Extreme patience with others
 - i. "Call fire down from heaven": Luke 9:51-56; James and John

4. **God's Absolute Purity: He is Terrifying**

- a. "He is good, but He is not safe": You will not mock God; He is not to be trifled with . . . Isaiah 6: "Woe is me, for I am undone!"
 - i. God is firmly committed to Glory, Justice, Holiness
 - ii. Peter: "Depart from me Lord, for I am a sinful man . . ."
- b. It is a terrifying thing to fall into the hands of God; Our God is a consuming fire
- c. God is holy and cannot abide with sin: Habakkuk 1:13; Hebrews 12:29
- d. So, what is going to happen to the world? "Reserved for fire" (3:10; 12)
 - i. "The elements will be destroyed with intense heat."

5. **God's Glorious Passion: He is Transforming**

- a. Not wishing for any to perish, but for all to come to repentance.
- b. Sin creates an impossible situation, but God is greater and has a plan of redemption which is certain and sure.
- c. God is beyond us; *His ways are not ours; His ways are higher than ours*
 - i. What God desires
 - ii. What God decrees
 - iii. This is antimony: two truths which apparently contradict; we cannot wrap our minds around them, we as creatures must accept them and adjust to them by submission and repentance;
 1. The Sovereignty of God
 2. The responsibility of Man
 3. Lord, I shut my mouth, and I repent in dust and ashes. .my quest to know is over; I will hush, be still and let you be God
 4. Job 40; Psalm 131

- d. What you need to know is that God has sent Christ out of this passion to achieve this rescue and redemption
- e. The passion of God is in the passion of Christ
- f. He, to rescue me from danger, interposed his precious blood
- g. What you need to know: Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved
 - i. God is calling you to repentance
- h. God exposes you : Will be exposed in verse 10 also means “exposed”, or “found out”
- i. It found out me: (And Can it Be?) “Tis mercy all, immense and free; For, O my God, it found out me”
- j. God is firmly committed to making all things beautiful in His time . . All things new. (See Rev. 21 and 22)

How do we know these things are factual? (2 Cor. 4:6)

If you know these things, blessed are you if you do them.

In relation to mockers and doubts and inexplicable truths? “I need no other argument; I need no other plea. It is enough that Jesus died and that He died for me.”

“If God can fling out a galaxy so that it stays where He wants it and yet observes one exhausted person and strengthens him, can we believe that we are adrift in a fathomless void? (Eliot)

Notes from JI Packer: Evangelism and the Sovereignty of God: “Two truths - that we must not diminish either one; an apparent contradiction (antinomy: a contradiction between conclusions which seem equally logical, reasonable, or necessary).”

“What should we do with it? Accept it for what it is, and live with it.”

“We should make it our business to believe both these doctrines with all our might, and to keep both constantly before us for the guidance and government of our lives.”

“We shall not oppose them to each other, for the Bible does not oppose them to each other. Nor shall we qualify, modify, or water down either of them in terms of each other, for this is not what the Bible does either. What the Bible does is to assert both truths side by side in the strongest and most unambiguous terms as two ultimate facts. “

Spurgeon: “Can you reconcile these two truths? I would not try. I never reconcile friends.”