

Part 7 – A Reminder to Remember

2 Peter 3:1-7

Throughout Scripture, we see a theme of God reminding his people to remember his faithfulness. When we lose sight of that, we lose our orientation to truth, which has devastating consequences. Throughout 2 Peter, the church is encouraged to remember God's faithfulness, to value his Word as the source of truth, and to orient their lives around it. Here in chapter 3, Peter returns to this theme.

We must remember that God's promises are the pathway to life (vv. 1-2)

Vv. 1b-2a - We are a forgetful people. The history of God's people shows a tendency and intentionality to forget God's promises.

- We need constant reminding of God's truth (2 Peter 1:2, 12, 15).
- "Believers need reminders about the truths they already know and accept precisely because such reminders, though including the mind, address the whole person. In biblical thinking reminders grip the whole person, so that we are possessed again by the gospel and its truth, so that we are energized to live for the glory of God."¹

V. 2 – The content of what we remember matters. The predictions of the prophets could refer to the entirety of the Old Testament revelation. It could also refer specifically to the prediction of God's judgment, which is mentioned throughout the Old Testament and later in this passage.

- The phrase, "the commandment of the Lord and Savior through your apostles" most likely refers to the overarching command from Jesus to be holy (Matt. 5:48; Matt 12:30).
- Peter makes a profound statement about the continuity of the Old and New Testaments. He equates the prophets of the Old Testament with the commandment of Jesus, which he then equates with the apostles' ministry.
- Catechize (to systematically teach a set of beliefs)
 - What do the Scriptures principally teach? What man is to believe concerning God, and what duty God requires of man."²
 - "What is your only comfort in life and in death? That I am not my own, but belong body and soul, in life and in death to my faithful Savior, Jesus Christ. He has fully paid for all my sins with his precious blood, and has set me free from the tyranny of the devil. He also watches over me in such a way that not a hair can fall from my head without the will of my Father in heaven; in fact, all things must work together for my salvation. Because I belong to him, Christ, by his Holy Spirit, assures me of eternal life and makes me wholeheartedly willing and ready from now on to live for him."³
 - "Social media, peer culture, education systems, and popular entertainment act as informal catechisms, shaping beliefs, values, and desires. Often, these messages run counter to the gospel, promoting autonomy, moral relativism, and self-centered narratives that undermine the foundational truths of the Christian faith" (John Kidd).

Those who deny God's promises are destined for destruction (vv. 3-7)

¹ Thomas Schreiner, *1, 2 Peter, Jude*, TNAC (Nashville, B&H, 2003) pp. 370

² *Westminster Shorter Catechism*, Question 3

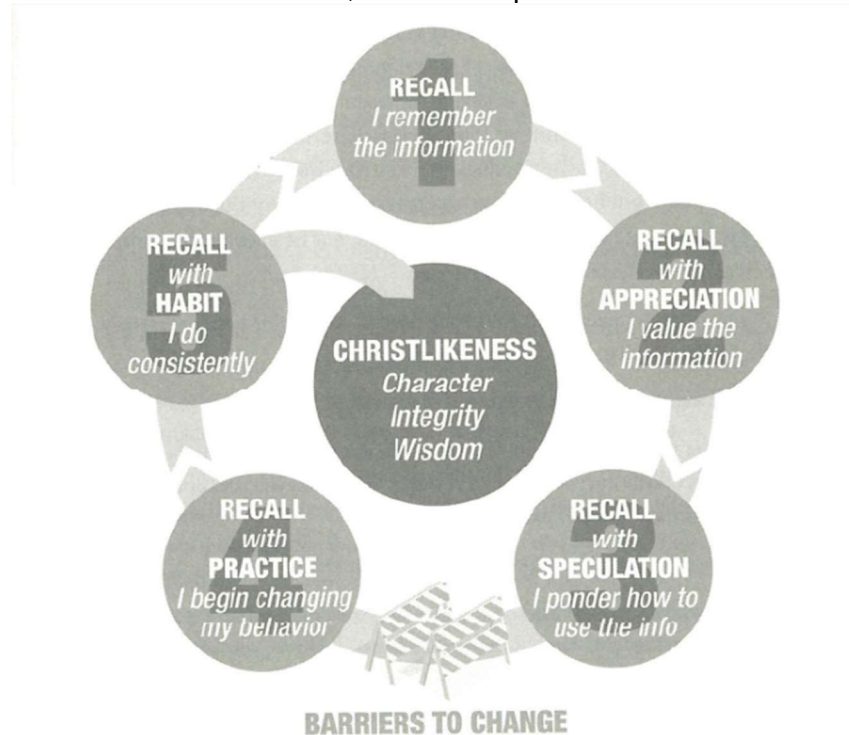
³ *Heidelberg Catechism*, Question 1

Vv. 3-4 – The last days refer to the period of time between Christ’s ascension to rule his kingdom from heaven and his final return. The last day refers to his final return, when he will judge the wicked and usher the righteous into the new creation.

- Peter warns against those who mock/scoff at God’s Word. There are two specific things they are mocking:
 - They mock the idea of Christ’s return, and they mock the idea of holiness.
 - If they can ease their conscience by convincing themselves and others that Christ is not coming back, they can pave the way for indulgence without consequence.
 - They misunderstand the patience of the Lord. They see that the last day has not happened yet, and they conclude it will not. This gives them license to indulge in their sinful desires.
- Cynicism and ungodliness go hand in hand. Doubting God’s promises is often accompanied by a pursuit of self-indulging behaviors fueled by sinful desires.

Vv. 5-7 – Peter highlights the role of God’s Word in the creation of the world, the sustaining of the world, and its ultimate judgment.

- Nothing happens outside of God’s sovereign rule. He merely speaks, and worlds are created and destroyed. Who are we to challenge him?
- Arrogance often leads to foolishness. False teachers deliberately overlook the facts to strengthen the defense of their unbelief. It’s much easier to willfully sin and disobey God when we deliberately and intentionally overlook God’s truth. The deliberate forgetfulness of those who desire sinful indulgence results in being the object of God’s holy judgment.
- One day, we will stand before our judge and will have to answer him for our thoughts, words, and deeds. If we stand on our own, we will be swept away in judgment. But if we are found safe in the Ark of Christ, we will be spared.



⁴ Elmer, M. I., & Elmer, D. *The learning cycle: Insights for faithful teaching from neuroscience and the social sciences*. (Downers Grove, IVP Academic, 2020)