

Grow Up
A Study of 2 Peter

"LIGHT"

2 Peter 1:12-21

Pastor Nathan Mains - September 21, 2008

Good News from 2 Peter 1:3-11

*His [God's] divine power has given us
everything we need...*

➤ **To Develop needed Character Qualities:**

Goodness

knowledge

Self-control

Perseverance

Godliness

Brotherly kindness

Love.

More Good News

*...if you possess these qualities
in increasing measure
they will keep you from being
ineffective
and unproductive...*

*...if you do these things, you will never fall,
and you will receive a rich welcome into
the eternal kingdom
of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.*

-- 2 Peter 1:1-11 (NIV)

So, this is important?

Peter goes on:

2 Peter 1:12 So I will always remind you of these things, even though you know them and are firmly established in the truth you now have. (NIV)

Never think: Been there, Done that.

We must not forget that staying in process, making progress, becoming more like Christ is what it's all about!

Why so much reminding?

1:13 *I think it is right to refresh your memory*

Lit. “to wake/stir you up with a reminder”

as long as I live in the tent of this body,

14 *because I know that I will soon put it aside,
as our Lord Jesus Christ has made clear to me.*

(NIV)

Because memory fades fast,
especially when the pressure's on
or when something new comes along,
we need to keep motivated
& keep motivating each other
about making progress in Christ

Always Aware

1:15 And I will make every effort to see that after my departure you will always be able to remember these things. (NIV)

Peter wants to leave as a lasting legacy a permanent reminder of the importance of continually progressing in Christlikeness as we journey through life.

Reason for Confidence

1:16 We did not follow cleverly invented stories when we told you about the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses of his majesty.

17 For he received honor and glory from God the Father when the voice came to him from the Majestic Glory, saying, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased."

18 We ourselves heard this voice that came from heaven when we were with him on the sacred mountain. (NIV)

God's Word can be trusted

1:19 *And we have the word of the prophets
made more certain...* (NIV)

- ❑ Transfiguration makes completely certain the prophecies of Jesus' comings. Eyewitnesses + prophecies authenticate the Bible.
- ❑ The Bible is a sure guide to what is real, what is true, what has happened and what is still to come.
- ❑ The Bible is our trustworthy guide from God re: Himself, how to connect with Him & how to prepare for His coming eternal kingdom.

God's Word is our LIGHT

*1:19 ...and you will do well to pay attention to it,
as to a light shining in a dark place,*

*Your word is a lamp to my feet
and a light for my path. -- Psalm 119:105*

*The precepts of the LORD are right, giving joy
to the heart. The commands of the LORD are
radiant, giving light to the eyes. -- Psalm 19:8*

*For these commands are a lamp, this teaching
is a light, and the corrections of discipline are
the way to life -- Proverbs 6:23 (NIV)*

How do we use our LIGHT?

- ☐ Read it regularly

- ☐ Memorize key parts

- ☐ Meditate – think about implications for life

- ☐ Pray it – personalize it b/t you & God

- ☐ Talk about it with family & friends

- ☐ Search it – bring the issues of your life to it

- ☐ Study it – dig in, get tools, ask questions

- ☐ Respond - Respond – Respond

...the mature... by constant use have trained themselves to distinguish good from evil.

-- Hebrews 5:14 (NIV)

How does it help?

How does it guide us?

- ☐ Confidence – It's true

- ☐ A firm foundation for convictions

 - ☐ A sure guide for behavior

 - ☐ A penetrating exposé of self-deception & sin

- ☐ A Sword to battle the forces of evil

 - ☐ A source of comfort, strength & hope when needed

- ☐ A sure guide for progress on the journey

Something Great to look forward to
2 Pet 1:19 *and you will do well to pay attention
to it, as to a light shining in a dark place,
...until the day dawns*

= day of the Lord when returns again to
establish his eternal kingdom

and the morning star rises in your hearts. (NIV)

➤ After that day dawns there will no longer be a
need for the light of Scripture for the rising of
Christ in our hearts at that time will give us
full knowledge.

How do we know this LIGHT - the Bible - can be trusted?

1:20 Above all, you must understand that no prophecy of Scripture came about by the prophet's own interpretation.

*21 For prophecy never had its origin in the will of man,
but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit. (NIV)*

Take Away

God's Word - The Bible
is our trustworthy LIGHT
from God
to guide us through life
(which can be murky)
to a rich welcome
in His eternal kingdom