

A Practical Study of 2 PETER:

A Winner's Game Plan

“What It Takes to Break the Tape”

Key Verse: 1 Peter 5:10

“But the God of all Grace, who has called you to His eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while, shall himself make you complete, shall establish you, shall make you strong, shall ground you as on a foundation.”

Study Number Three – “Here’s How I’ll Help – 2 Peter 1:12-21

Episode number 3 in our study of 2 Peter. Our key verse today is chapter 1 verse 13.

I’m so thankful for the music because both of the guys were very much aware that Peter is talking about his own demise. There’s a real sense of understanding that he has received from the Lord an indication that his ground time’s going to be brief. He’ll be departing soon. He doesn’t speak much of it but he does speak of what he needs to do in view of it.

So I think for every one of us sitting here knowing that we are those who are on a journey and it might be as brief as that of

Peter's or even briefer. That our hearts would be tender and close to Him and make a real desire and real passionate plea to those who are around us to continue the race, to continue the fight, to live for the glory of the Lord.

In 1 Timothy 6:11, 12 we read:

1 Timothy 6:11, 12

But flee from these things, you man of God; and pursue after righteousness, godliness, faith, love, [and guess what the next word is?] perseverance and gentleness. Fight the good fight of faith; take hold of the eternal life to which you were called, and you made the good confession in the presence of many witnesses.

2 Timothy 2:3, 4

Suffer hardship with me, as a good soldier of Christ Jesus. No soldier in active service entangles himself in the affairs of everyday life, so he may please the one who enlisted him as a soldier.

We are pursuing the subject of:

How to Win the Game of Life—Written by One Who Did

We learned in our first study that our resources are completely adequate because Jesus Christ has given us everything that we're going to need.

This morning we talked about when you receive these resources, what is our responsibility? Salvation is only the beginning. It's a birth. It takes place in that obstetrics ward but then it all ends at a funeral when you go on home to glory.

What do you do in-between? You grow and grow and grow. And the last word that Peter's going to say to you—when we have our final study because I've been reading ahead—is grow in grace in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

And I hope you'll be haunted until this conference is over with these seven words that have really changed my perspective about how I want to finish my life:

1. "virtue,"
2. "knowledge,"
3. "self-control,"
4. "perseverance,"
5. "godliness,"

And he used those last two words:

6. "warm affection,"— *phileō*

and

7. “*agapē*”—God’s kind of love.

1 Corinthians 15:58

Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord...

Now what we’re going to come here in this particular study is here’s Peter availing himself. He’s saying “Here’s how I’ll help.”

You see, the body of Christ is put together of brothers and sisters who are gifted in unique ways. I’m so thankful I’ve gotten to live this long because I recognize the incredible, incredible capacity dear brothers and sisters in Christ have in gifted ways to embellish, to become effective, to create ministry. And I think Pearl and I, having the joy of being the senior pastor at Hide-a-way for the last 6 years is only intensified that as Sunday after Sunday I watch people being involved in ministry—people who are doing very special things that we’ve never experienced or known before.

There is a thrill when brothers and sisters come alongside and minister to one another. That’s the most beautiful thing in the world and it delights the heart of God when we find out we can help, how we can plug in, how our gifts can be used and fruit can be born because we’re all in it together.

Here’s our buddy Peter and you know he’s been proud most of

the time, hasn't he? "You ain't going to wash my feet! They're not going to kill you as long I'm alive!" And all of these statements that are made. Now in brokenness and contrition, as he's facing physical death, there's a tenderness. There's a softness. There's a sense that this man is so concerned about others.

And the one thing you learn that if you are really a mature believer and you hear from the doctor that you've got 6 months and you spend all the time in a pity party trying to get healed and pray for all of that stuff instead of starting thinking of others, you've missed it.

Christ didn't speak in the Upper Room before He died about how sad He was that tomorrow He was going to die. He spoke to them: "Stop being troubled in your hearts. You believe in God and what He wants for me. In my Father's house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so I would have told you. I'm going to go prepare a place for you and then I'm going to come back and receive you unto myself. So guys, this isn't the time to be sad!"

And so He doesn't speak about His departure. He speaks in John 14 to Thomas and his question about "we don't know the way":

John 14:6

"I am the way, the truth, and the life; no man comes to the Father but by Me."

“But how are you going to reveal yourself to us and not to the whole world?”

And so Judas, not Iscariot, gets an answer from the Lord saying:

“I and my Father are one” (John 10:30). “Haven’t you discovered that yet?”

And so John 15:

John 15:5

I am the vine, you are the branches...

He goes down to the Garden of Gethsemane. He promises them the Comforter, the Spirit, is going to come. And He gets to the Garden of Gethsemane and he says:

“Father, I’ve finished the course, the work that you’ve given me to do.”

Not one feeling sorry pity party over the fact that the race is over! And I think we storm heaven with so many things that are irrelevant with regard to the reality that there is a day coming when we’re going to go. And I want to be one that’s not going to be like so many that I have experienced over the years that have so much regret over what they didn’t do. I want to be fulfilled in what I have done. And focus on others

rather than myself in the midst of the suffering. No matter how long or short it might be to make that journey of breaking camp and going home to be with the Lord.

That's Peter. I just love this. It's like he's been so wrapped up in himself as president of the executive committee—Peter, James and John—getting to do all these wonderful things. But that failure, that denial, that brokenness brought a new man to the scene. And please, understand, that the curriculum around you today is to break you. It's to melt you. It's to mold you.

I've kind of laughed over the last four or five weeks. It's been kind of tough. And I had a prayer about 4 or 5 weeks ago. I said "God, before I ever go teach 2 Peter to these folks, I'm going to ask You to hammer me, hit me, crush me, break me, soften me, tender me, so that I am fresh clay in Your hands to be remolded in the way that will bring glory and honor to You."

You say, man I can't pray like that. Go ahead! It's the hands of love that are crushing you and breaking you and making you into something beautiful that you never could be if you didn't have the courage to do that and to pray and to trust Him in those circumstances.

So here's our hero. I just love this!

As I see him in his final words, accepting the fact that the Lord said he's going to die soon, he hardly says anything

about it other than making an announcement. And then he jumps right into what he wants to say to us. And boy when you've got a guy on a dying bed, you want to listen to every word he has to say. But boy, that's when the chips are down. That's when the messages that are going come to be written down and put on plaques and known and remembered.

I had the neatest gift the other day. A guy that had been in my class in Fort Worth for close to 20 years sent me a book of all of the Anderson sayings that he had heard over 20 years.

You talk about somebody who sends you a treasure. That took a lot of time to put down and it was a lot of classes that he'd been to. But Pearl and I just laughed because some of them are so humorous. Some of them were so serious about what God had been teaching us over these years.

Well as we get into the text, just remember each of us has a contribution to the life of others. The big problem, you know what we've got? The longer I'm around Christians in the body of Christ, is that when a person has a problem we have a tendency to push them in the isolation ward. You know, and let him take care of his own problems. And then when he gets well and he gets going we'll come back and encourage him and that stuff.

Why can't we go into the isolation ward and suffer with this dear brother or sister in Christ? Many of you have done that and are doing it. And thank God for the fact that you're so much involved in the lives of others. That's what brings glory

and honor to Him.

You remember what the Lord said to Peter on the shores that morning in the resurrection body with those other six fishermen? After He said “Do you love me?” remember what He said? “Tend (or feed) My sheep.” In other words, be busy caring, laboring to minister to others. That’s what He said. And that’s Peter. He’s just taking exactly what the Lord said to him to do. When he failed on the business of love, the Lord still said “Tend My sheep! Feed My sheep! Care for them! OK?” That’s the mandate that’s spelled out in these verses.

What you’ll find is the final acts of a great man still following His master. And it’s beautiful thinking of others. Oh God, just break our hearts with the thoughts of others and to minimize the mess we’re in or the struggles we’re going through because it’s not relevant to the crowd. It’s only us and the Lord that have got to deal with those challenges. God didn’t mean for us to go public with all that stuff. He meant for us to take it, to deal with it, and to grow and to mature.

You ready for it? Verse 12—you’ve been ready for 20 minutes.

v.12 Therefore, I shall always be ready to be reminding you concerning these things, even though you know them and have been firmly established in the truth which is present with you.

“Therefore”—whenever you see THEREFORE you want to find what it’s THERE FOR, don’t you?

“Therefore, I shall always be ready”—Oh man that makes you feel good! He’d have made a good Boy Scout—“I shall always be ready to be reminding...”

Now notice, all of this is in the PRESENT TENSE. That means it goes on all the time. It’s not something I’m promising you I’m going to do just once in a while. I am committing myself:

“I shall always be ready to be reminding you”—WHAT?—“concerning these things...”

What “things”? Those 7 things we looked at last time. He says “I want to go back over that with you a whole bunch of times in my remaining days here because that’s the agenda. That’s what the Lord wants to accomplish in my life. And that’s what the Lord wants to accomplish in yours.

So I’m going to be “reminding you of these things even though you know them”—you’ve got them down.

You know them and you “have been firmly established in the truth which is present with you.”

“Therefore brethren, be all the more diligent” he said back in chapter 1, verse 10.

Be all the more diligent to make certain about His calling and choosing you. For as long as you are doing these things, you will never stumble.

“Therefore, I shall always be ready...”

What do you have?

Your resource file is filled with Jesus! You have everything you need in Him, right?

Ok, what are your responsibilities? You labored with me this morning on those seven things because they were so passionate and meaningful to all of us.

Ok, now what other contribution do we need? We need brothers and sisters in relationships around us to precipitate that growth. People who can be honest with us. People who love us. People who will share honestly and openly with us to help us grow and mature in that.

So, put the THREE R's together:

RESOURCES,

RESPONSIBILITIES,

and message #3

dominant RELATIONSHIPS.

God never makes a mistake in the relationships He brings into your life because He has some purpose for using that person in your life to help you to mature and grow in Jesus

Christ.

“These things” then are all of these.
You need my arms around you when you fall.

You need to know that I’m in the front row clapping off my hands when you’re successful.

That’s our man Peter. And this is his personal commitment to other believers who are growing in the Lord Jesus Christ!

Now there are TWO THINGS that he says about them in this twelfth verse:

1. they know these things that he’s reminding them about.

Oh that helps me so much! When so many times I teach a section of the Scripture and then I have to come back and I’m teaching another section and its Paul saying the same thing to the Colossian church that he said to the Ephesian church. I don’t have to apologize for that because we don’t only need to hear it once, we need it precept-upon-precept, principle-upon-principle, over and over and over again until it really gets ahold of our lives and we understand it.

He says to them “you know these things and I’m just reminding you of them.”

“[They] have been firmly established in the truth which is present with [them].”

It simply means that they have put down their roots in the word of God and “have been firmly established” in these things which are present with them.

What is one “present” with them? That’s the Christ.

How established are you in the Lord Jesus? How much more do you know about Him than you did this morning? How much do you love Him?

You know, I find in the monthly cycle of the communion table which is the first Sunday. Of course, if your church is like ours probably. Unless you have the Christian church, it’s every Sunday that you like to celebrate communion.

As you know Hide-a-way has 18 different denominations so we have differences of opinion on that.

One dear couple from the Christian church who joined here a few months ago said “It’s no big deal. We’re going to celebrate communion with you on the first Sunday but we’re going to the bookstore and get us a little communion set and we’re going to celebrate after it we come home from church.”

Boy does that ever make you feel good. Instead of ramming down our throats some traditions or some backgrounds from past denominational preferences, they would lovingly submit

themselves to be oil—to be unity. To think of things that would bring us close together. And boy don't you know that just touched my heart. Because so often you hear the adverse—you hear the other side of what you have to do to please somebody. And you just don't play to audiences. You just teach the Word of God and you be faithful.

But the biggest area where I find there is real, real coldness of heart in some ways is the communion table. It's like you almost, on the Sunday you have communion, you've got to warm up everybody's heart. You've got to get everybody to recognize, boy this is a tremendous price! This was a gift of grace. Here we are.

I want to sing Isaac Watts, and I do on those mornings when we're going to have communion:

When I survey the wondrous cross,
On which the Prince of Glory died,
My richest gain I count but loss,
And pour contempt on all my pride.

Would you do me a favor? You're going to celebrate communion on Friday night. And if anybody wants to follow in the ordinance of baptism, we'll be available for that. If not, we'll just have our communion service here. I want it to be special to you. I want it to be a culmination of the week. But more than that, that you'll walking away from TrailWest more deeply in love with Jesus than you've ever been before. So the Cross is going to be meaningful.

Peter is facing his own cross but he doesn't say anything about it. He's talking about the Savior. He's also talking about the saints who've been established in the word.

J. Vernon McGee says this:

Knowing that he would not be with them very much longer, he felt called upon to stir up these saints to grow in grace, lest spiritual senility would set in. [Isn't that a great statement?] There are Christians today, and I am sure that you have met some of them, who are actually spiritually senile. They are tottering around, not seeming to have all of their faculties." (source unknown)

Thank you J. Vernon for being so graphic.

Is it possible, if we come today with cold lukewarm hearts or we've come to the mountain, just kind of distant and complacent because we've been just living life from day to day in the best way we know how. There is.

The scripture is filled with examples of restoration. With examples of changes of life and direction.

Who would ever have thought that God in His marvelous grace would use a David after his sin? Who would have ever thought that He would have used Abraham after he lied about Sarah? Who would have ever thought that God would use Peter after he blew it twice with such pride in his heart? And now we're witnessing it in every word that he writes.

And so, as we look at this today, notice it's one thing to be "firmly established in the truth" and it's another thing to just read the scriptures and not apply it to our lives. Verse 13.

v.13 Indeed, I am considering it my duty (right), as long as I am in this tent, to keep on stirring you up by way of reminder,

"Indeed"—now when you've the word "indeed," this is an emotional outburst ok. This is like PAY ATTENTION to what I'm saying because I'm spilling my insides to you! You got that?

Whenever you want to say something to somebody you say "Listen to me!" Well this is an emotional word.

"Indeed," [I want to say something to you] "I am considering it my duty (right), as long as I am in this tent," [that's his body] "to keep on stirring you up by way of a reminder,"

Oh, now! The intensity of it is beginning to reveal itself by the fact that he doesn't have much time left. That's John 9:4 when Jesus said:

John 9:4

I must work the works of him that sent me while it is day for the night is coming when no man can work.

John 4:35

Don't tell me there are four months and then cometh harvest. Behold I say unto you, lift up your eyes and look on the fields. They're white already unto harvest.

You know the neatest thing you can do? Is take 80 years and multiply it by 365 and then throw in your leap years so you know exactly how many days you have. Because you have been promised **THREE SCORE AND TEN**, right? There's your 70. And of course the maintenance contract runs out at 80, if you're strong enough and you get 10 more you're going to make it to 80. So use the 80 figure. We're going to give you a little grace here.

Ok, subtract all the days you already have and then after you subtract all those days, see how many days you've got left and see what it's going to do about your marriage relationship, your relationship with your kids, your ministry and the fruit that you want to bear in the lives of others before you're out of here.

Well I did that about 10 years ago. And I did it the other day for our anniversary. Pearl wondered how I got 20,644 days out of 56 years that we've been living together. I just wanted us to celebrate so that every day that we have left is going to be very precious because it's going to be a whole lot less than that if nature takes it course.

And I've only got a little over a 1,000 days left when I make that 80th birthday. Boy, that'll sober you up just a little bit when you had 3,000 just a few years ago. I want to sober you up too, to get serious.

“Indeed” he’s saying. This is emotional! “I am considering it my duty”—that’s PRESENT TENSE—“as long as I am in this tent,”—and God only knows that—“to keep on stirring you up by way of a reminder.”

How are you going to win in the game of life? By realizing your resources is everything in Christ. Your responsibility are those seven things. And now here’s our key verse to study #3. Here’s how I can help.

“I shall always be ready”—verse 12.

Verse 13—“I am considering it my duty (my right) as long as I am in this tent, to keep on stirring you up by way of reminder.”

Now how do you do that for somebody? How do you stir somebody up?

Well the very first thing you can do is:

1. ENCOURAGE people.

Too often times we feel it’s our obligation to criticize and to put down and condemn.

No, the Spirit of God would want you—first of all—to encourage.

Secondly:

2. to EXHORT, Knowing the difficulties and the challenges, to exhort the person with Scripture.

And then the biggest one of all and the most effective is:

3. your EXAMPLE.

When you are continually living by the THREE E's, you are doing what he said here in the thirteenth verse.”

You are reminding him:

by ENCOURAGEMENT,

by EXHORTATION, and

by EXAMPLE.

One writer said:

Old age is a time to be and not to do.
(source unknown)

The FOCUS is on being who you are and to glorify God more

than what you are trying to do.

Ok, here he is facing death. He's telling you: "The Lord's made it clear, I've just got a little time left."

Is he disappointed? No. He's just going to keep on doing what he's always been doing. He's going to be "stirring" up the hearts of others in the days that are left to him.

Let me give you some verses on this.

Philippians 1:23 is one of my favorites. This was my first Greek assignment in college in my first Greek class—*exegete* or tear apart.

Philippians 1:23

But I am hard-pressed from both directions, [He's got life on one side and death on the other. Paul doesn't know whether he's going to make it or not] having the desire to depart or to break up camp and be with Christ, for that is very much better.

But in the next verse he says:

Philippians 1:24-25

But I find it's necessary for me to stay, to be an encouragement and a blessing to you.

Anderson's translation.

But what he's saying is "I've got to be ready!" And the word he uses for death is the word "depart." And that was my assignment. *Exegete*, the word "depart." Well it means to break up camp. It means to pull up the anchor and start to set sail. It's a medical term—to set the bone that's been broken.

All of these words encompass what death is to the believer.

And Paul says "I'm ready to break up camp—take down the tent—pull up the stakes—and go to my permanent dwelling which would be far better than staying here any longer."

So, that's the kind of feeling that Peter has.

"This old body's going to be crucified. And as long as I'm in this tent, I'm going to keep on stirring you up by way of reminder."

Does that sound a little bit like Jesus? Do you remember when He was sitting around the table what He said? He said "This do in remembrance of Me." In other words, don't ever forget it. That's all Peter's doing. I think he got away from the table and realized:

"That's my ministry if I'm going to tend sheep and I'm going to be taking care of people is to keep on stirring them up by keeping on telling them the truth."

Verse 14—there it is. See what he's saying?

v.14 knowing that the laying aside of my earthly tent is very soon, even as also our Lord Jesus Christ has made clear to me.

“knowing that the laying aside of my earthly tent”—that’s another way of saying I’m getting ready to die—“is very soon, even as also our Lord Jesus Christ has made clear to me.”

Through the devotional time, through his walk with the Lord, through those moments of communion, the Lord is warning him. I’m sure he warned Paul in the very same way when he wrote 2 Timothy, that he had very little time left because they both died probably in 67 or 68 A.D.

And for Peter, he knew the means of crucifixion by the Roman government was going to be crucifixion and he was going to ask them to crucify him upside down because he did not feel worthy to be crucified like his Lord. In humility and brokenness, he chose the way he was going to be a martyr and the way he was going to die.

The thing that thrills me is that rather than draw back, to quit, to isolate yourself, to say “Oh! It’s over, it’s over, it’s over!” It isn’t over!

The opera ain’t over till the fat lady sings! You still got things to do, assignments to fulfill. And I’ve told so many people on their death bed, I say “Your greatest witness is right now! You can bear more fruit in the lives of people by what you say and

do and how you handle this demise than anything else you could do to touch lives for the glory of God!”

Look at Samson. When he finally, in his blindness, pulls those pillars down and it kills 3,000 people the text says he got more in his death than he did in his life. The principle is take it seriously about how much time is left and number your days and apply your heart to wisdom!

The psalmist tells us very clearly:

“knowing that the laying aside of my earthly tent is very soon, even as also our Lord Jesus Christ has made clear to me.”

All I’m saying is, when you get a look at the finish line, run harder. Don’t run slower. Don’t run less. When you get to that point where you see that finish line, just go for it! And give it all you have!

I just put Hebrews 12 down there. I love that!

Hebrews 12:1, 2

See I’m compassed about so great a cloud of witnesses, I’m laying aside every weight and the sin which is entangling my feet and I am running with perseverance the agony (the race) that is set before me, looking unto Jesus the Author and Finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him, endured the cross, despising the shame,

and has now sat down at the right hand of God.

Indicating He has finished the task! And He's interceding for us 24 hours a day.

He has never given up, loving and thinking about you and about me as His children in the body of Christ.

Paul said the same thing:

2 Timothy 4:6-8

I'm ready to be offered, the time of my departure [there's the word again] is at hand. I have fought a good fight, and I finished the course, and I kept the faith. Henceforth, there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness...

God help us to be those people who are going to be broken, spent and spilled out for the glory of God.

I wrote this statement down and I even highlighted it in big yellow letters so I wouldn't miss it:

The testimony of the dying will win the world to Christ. God doesn't say don't cry and don't grieve and don't hurt. He only says, **DON'T BE AFRAID.**

You're greatest witness will be at that time, sharing the Lord Jesus Christ who is adequate—not only for your life—He's also adequate for your death.

Verse 15.

v.15 Indeed, I will also do my best that at any time after my departure you may be able to call these things to mind.

Do you see how emotional this is? There's the word. What is it? "Indeed"—here we go again! He's expressing his heart and you can tell it!

"Indeed, I will also do my best that at any time after my departure you may be able to call these things to mind."

How did he do that? Under divine inspiration he wrote 1st and 2nd Peter. And so here we are as saints celebrating his life and the way he lived it and the things that he's taught us, and we're putting them into practice.

That's the way God fulfils these emotional feelings of getting it all in print and ordering his life in such a way by the time of his departure. Doesn't that kind of make you kind of feel like you want to sing:

*Some Glad Morning
when this life is over
I'll fly away!*

We sang that at Dody's funeral the other day. It was so comforting to know that glad morning had finally come after 19 years of being cancer-ridden. To go on to be with her

blessed Lord.

It's just a departure and it's our responsibility as believers to be fulfilling our mission.

Now, let me just give you a couple of more quick illustrations in these remaining verses.

Verse 16.

v.16 For we did not follow cleverly devised fables when we made known to you the power and personal coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but became eyewitnesses of that One's magnificence.

“For we did not follow cleverly devised fables when we made known to you the power and personal coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but became eyewitnesses of that [that] One's magnificence.”

What's he talking about? Do you remember Peter, James and John (the executive committee) got to go up the mount of transfiguration. And when the three of them got up there, what did they see? They saw Christ transfigured before them. They saw Moses and Elijah having a conversation with Him. And the conversation was Elijah and Moses were encouraging Him about His own impending departure at the cross of Calvary because we're almost there.

And so the Lord has lovingly created this circumstance of

transfiguration to encourage Peter, James and John about the fact that, even though Christ is going to die, the Father still has everything under control. It's going to be alright! And Peter is so impressed. What does he say? "Well, let's just build three tabernacles and stay up here. We don't want to go down to the bottom."

Does that sound like him? He's so passionately involved. And then on top of it, oh you've got the big benediction. Do you remember it? Boom! Out of heaven: "This is my beloved Son in whom I am well pleased. Listen to Him!"

Oh what an affirmation! That's what he's talking about here at death. The magnificent experience that he had in seeing Christ transfigured before him.

"I saw it with my own eyes. I got a premier preview of what is going to happen in these good things."

Here's the text:

Luke 9:28-36

And some days after these sayings, it came about that he took along Peter and John and James and went up to the mountain to pray. And while he was praying, the appearance of his face became different, and his clothing became white and gleaming. And behold, two men were talking with him, and they were Moses and Elijah, who appearing in glory, were speaking of his departure,

[breaking up of camp] which he was about to accomplish in Jerusalem....

You see the picture? Here's the leader! He was transfigured at the time of His death and He revealed to us that He's the Son of God and God the Father punctuated with that by what He's had to say! And now that I'm facing physical death, I want to do it the same way! I want to go out of here victorious and in glory! Swept home the very moment and the time that the Lord wants to take me to be with Himself.

Oh what a picture!

Think of us. Your transfiguration began when? In the PAST, the day you received Christ.

2 Corinthians 5:17

Therefore, if any man be in Christ, he is a new creation. Old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.

What is your PRESENT transformation?

Romans 12:1, 2

I beg you brothers, as an act of intelligent worship, to present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service, and be not conformed to this world, but be ye transformed by the

renewing of your mind.

That's the transformation in the present that we talked about this morning when those 7 words become dominant in our lives.

2 Corinthians 3:18

But we all, with unveiled face beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as from the Lord, the Spirit.

That's what's happening now!

What about the FUTURE?

1 John 3:2

Soon we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is.

The work is instantaneously complete at the time we're taken home to be with Him.

Verse 17.

v.17 For when He received honor and glory from God the Father, such a voice as this was borne to Him by the Majestic Glory, "This is my beloved Son with whom I am well-pleased."

“For when He received honor and glory from God the Father, such a voice as this was borne to Him by the Majestic Glory, “This is my beloved Son with whom I am well-pleased.”

That’s comforting him in his present relationships and ministry.

“And”—verse 18.

v.18 And we ourselves heard this voice borne along out from heaven when we were with Him on the holy mountain.

“And we ourselves heard this voice borne along out from heaven when we were with Him on the holy mountain.”

What are the two instruments that verify His message? His EYES—he saw it. His EARS—he heard it. And now he’s TELLING it.

That happened 30 years ago for Peter. And here he is 30 years later, facing the time of his physical demise. His time of departure, he goes back to the Lord’s departure and finds comfort and peace.

So excited that he wanted to build the three tabernacles, but he glories now in the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

You know there’s another principle here. I think the Lord a lot

of times gives us little previews in our devotional time as to what's going to happen. That's why you're in the Word every day because if you miss it you might miss the instructions that He's got for you for that day and you're totally unprepared—you're blindsided.

Let me give you a couple of illustrations that make me think this.

Stephen has just preached a powerful message before the Sanhedrin. And it says that they looked at him and his face looked like it literally glowed. But listen to what he says as you begin to read verse 54 at the end of his sermon:

Acts 7:54

Now when they heard this, they were cut to the quick, and they began gnashing in their teeth. But he being so full of the Holy Spirit, he gazed intently into heaven, and saw the glory of God...

Oh I've heard so many Christian's stories of people dying and seeing the glory of God in the moment of their death. I think God gives us those previews. That's what it means when he says "he walks with us through the valley of the shadow of death." We don't need to fear any evil. We get those little previews.

And do you hear what he says?

Acts 7:55-56

I see Jesus standing at the right hand of God. And he said, Behold, I see the heavens opened and the Son of man standing at the right hand of God.

Why is he standing instead of sitting in the seat? Because He's finished! No! He's standing there in honor to welcome home the child who's coming to glory.

Paul had this same experience, you know that?

2 Corinthians 12:2ff

I know a man in Christ, who 14 years ago, whether in the body, I do not know, or out of the body, I do not know; God knows; such a man was caught up to the third heaven. And I know how such a man whether in the body or apart from the body, I don't know; God knows; was caught up into paradise and heard inexpressible words which a man is not permitted to speak.

And oh I wish he'd have written it down. But we can talk to him and argue with him about that a little bit later.

It happened to John the apostle in the book of Revelation, chapter 21:

Revelation 21:10-11, 22-23

And he carried me away in the Spirit to a great and high mountain and showed me the holy city, Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God. Having the glory of God; her brilliance was like a very costly stone, as a stone of crystal, clear jasper; ...And I saw no temple in it, for the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb are in the temple. And the city had no need of sun, nor the moon to shine upon it; for the glory of God had illumined it, and its lamp is the Lamb.

Yeah, I think God does that. I think He enriches us and our lives with the glory of the unknown.

Verse 19. Oh, isn't this a great way to wrap this up?

v.19 And we are having the prophetic word as something altogether reliable, to which you are doing well to be paying attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star arises in your hearts.

“And we are having the prophetic word”—that’s not pathetic, that is prophetic—“as something altogether reliable, to which you are doing well to be paying attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star arises in your hearts.”

Well, both the FATHER in verse 7 and the PROPHETS in verse 19 are saying the same thing.

These prophets are reliable because they have been given the message that the day is going to dawn and the “morning star” who is Jesus Christ is going to come. And Peter declares that message in his final messages to us.

It is worth well for us to be paying attention to the prophetic word of God.

Now I know you’ve got a lot of questions about prophecy. You want to know what’s going to happen to the United States. You want to know how Islam fits into it. You want to know what’s going on in Iran and Iraq. I’m telling you one thing, just go read Ezekiel 38 and 39 and recognize the nations are aligned like they’ve never been before. And the hatred for Christians and for Israel is almost a worldwide thing.

And you and I as brothers and sisters are going to have our metal tested to the enth degree. So get ready! It’s going to be tough. And spill your blood with mine if we need to. The glory of God on the honor of Christ, because nothing will happen to us that’s out of His control.

But it is going to be a painful and horrible holocaust in the wrap up that’s going to take place and how all of these things relate. We’ll have some time in personal time to discuss it. But he’s basically saying “Pay attention to the prophetic word.”

So many people don’t want to read it because you don’t think you understand it. You’ve got a message here. Pay attention because the day is going to soon dawn when all of the

foundations are going to be shaken and Christ is going to come and split the skies. What a glorious, glorious day that's going to be.

Our last two verses.

v.20 But knowing this first of all, that every prophecy of Scripture is not originating from one's own interpretation.

“But knowing this”—this in CONTRAST to what he's told him—“first of all, that every prophecy of Scripture is not originating from one's own interpretation.”

Boy I tremble in my shoes when I hear these people coming along telling me that God told them a message to give to me. Or to somebody else.

Number one, you're violating scripture in adding something to the scripture. And you are in danger of judgment because you did that.

In Revelation it says don't mess with the prophetic word. All the prophetic word has been spoken. In the end of the Revelation tells you that that's it.

And we also learned in the book of Hebrews that God spoke His final word when He sent THE WORD, Jesus Christ into the world.

So you've got 66 books that are the WRITTEN WORD and you've got Jesus Christ who is the LIVING WORD, and in our first study you learned that He is EVERYTHING YOU NEED! So don't be looking around for people who've gotten a new message or got a new twist because they took some verse out of context to impress you about their Bible knowledge and their knowledge of the future. That stinks from hell and don't be sidetracked from it.

This is going to get tough. Because we're going to get into chapter 2 tomorrow and there aren't so very many pretty words here about these people who are false prophets.

Ok, final verse. Reason for why he's saying that.

v.21 For no prophecy was ever made by an act of human will, but men being carried along by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.

“For no prophecy was ever made by an act of human will, but men being carried along by the Holy Spirit”—it's like the wind and the sails of a sailing ship born along by the Spirit of God.

“by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.”

They were moved and driven. Peter was one of them. The message that's given is for us to pay attention and to trust what God has to say.

There are six lessons that come out of this study. Realize that

Peter wants to help him finish the race. He tells him the story about the transfiguration to help them. And he uses the prophetic word to do the same.

You've got three wonderful things. I hope you'll prepare your hearts by taking a little time to absorb what you have to say.

LESSON #1: It is our responsibility to always be ready to encourage and exhort one another.

LESSON #2: Our body is like a tent that we lay aside at the hour of our death.

LESSON #3: Death should hold no fears for the believer because he is absent from the body and present with the Lord.

LESSON #4: Let us so live that we too will hear from the lips of our Father, This is my beloved child with whom I am well pleased.

LESSON #5: We are challenged to pay attention to the prophetic word.

LESSON #6: God the Father sometimes gives us a little glimpse of glory before we get there to encourage and to prepare us for our arrival.

STUDY NUMBER THREE – “HERE’S HOW I’LL HELP **– 2 PETER 1:12-21**

NOTES

v.12 Therefore, I shall always be ready to be reminding you concerning these things, even though you know them and have been firmly established in the truth which is present with you.

v.13 Indeed, I am considering it my duty (right), as long as I am in this tent, to keep on stirring you up by way of reminder,

v.14 knowing that the laying aside of my earthly tent is very soon, even as also our Lord Jesus Christ has made clear to me.

v.15 Indeed, I will also do my best that at any time after my departure you may be able to call these things to mind.

v.16 For we did not follow cleverly devised fables when we made known to you the power and personal coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but became eyewitnesses of that One’s magnificence.

v.17 For when He received honor and glory from God the Father, such a voice as this was borne to Him by the Majestic Glory, “This is my beloved Son with whom I am well-pleased.”

v.18 And we ourselves heard this voice borne along out from heaven when we were with Him on the holy mountain.

v.19 And we are having the prophetic word as something altogether reliable, to which you are doing well to be paying attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star arises in your hearts.

v.20 But knowing this first of all, that every prophecy of Scripture is not originating from one’s own interpretation.

v.21 For no prophecy was ever made by an act of human will, but men being carried along by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.

QUESTIONS:

1. Read 2 Peter 1:12-21 and in your own words pull out the main thought of this passage.

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2. What does he promise to do for them in verse 12?

3. How does he refer to his body in verse 13?

4. What does he say is going to be happening to him soon in verse 14?

5. What two things did he make known to them, according to verse 16?

6. What did the Father say of the Son, according to verse 17?

7. What event does Peter refer to in verse 18?

8. How was “prophecy” given, according to verse 21?

9. What verse in the study has meant the most to you?

10. What lesson have you learned from this study?

LESSONS FROM THE PASSAGE:

What are some of the lessons we can learn from this particular study?

LESSON #1: It is our responsibility to always be ready to encourage and exhort one another.

LESSON #2: Our body is like a tent that we lay aside at the hour of our death.

LESSON #3: Death should hold no fears for the believer because he is absent from the body and present with the Lord.

LESSON #4: Let us so live that we too will hear from the lips of our Father, This is my beloved child with whom I am well pleased.

LESSON #5: We are challenged to pay attention to the prophetic word.

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