

August 13, 2017

Practicing Our Readiness Drills for Christ's Return - Seeking God's Guidance from 1st and 2nd Peter

Sermon Topic: How to Stir One Another to Remember God's Truths

2 Peter 1:12-15

Therefore I intend always to remind you of these qualities, though you know them and are established in the truth that you have. I think it right, as long as I am in this body, to stir you up by way of reminder, since I know that the putting off of my body will be soon, as our Lord Jesus Christ made clear to me. And I will make every effort so that after my departure you may be able at any time to recall these things. (ESV)

- Theme of 2nd Peter: Defend yourselves with biblical knowledge and spiritual maturity against the deceptions of false teachers.

Introduction: Remember your favorite teacher in HS or college? Mine was Professor Tewinkel teaching history. He was passionate about what he taught. And every day he made it a practice of reminding us of what we had learned the previous day, week and month. Tests were easy, because we remembered everything we had been taught via repetition. Jesus repeated parables and told stories and was passionate. The disciples remembered (with the help of the HS). Paul repeated himself often. One was never enough.

Critical Point #4 What we think about and let our minds dwell on impacts our daily lives and behavior positively and negatively.

Why is it so important to be reminded of the basic truths of the gospel message?

1. We are forgetful people.

I could ask you to think about all the things you have forgotten but that would be futile wouldn't it. We forget names and faces. We forget appointments, We forget special dates and even the dates loved ones passed away. Over time it gets deleted. It's not just seniors who struggle with forgetfulness but not too many twentysomethings stand in a room wondering why they entered. Pati laughs at me because I have reminders on my phone for everything, I bet some of you do too. We are forgetful people.

Exodus 13:3 Then Moses said to the people, "Remember this day in which you came out from Egypt, out of the house of slavery, for by a strong hand the LORD brought you out from this place. No leavened bread shall be eaten. (ESV)

Numbers 15:37-41

The LORD said to Moses, "Speak to the people of Israel, and tell them to make tassels on the corners of their garments throughout their generations, and to put a cord of blue on the

tassel of each corner. And it shall be a tassel for you to look at and remember all the commandments of the LORD, to do them, not to follow after your own heart and your own eyes, which you are inclined to whore after. So you shall remember and do all my commandments, and be holy to your God. I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt to be your God: I am the LORD your God.” (ESV)

2. We forget the good and remember the bad.

This is why the adage, “It takes 10 compliments to outweigh one criticism” is valid. We tend to forget the compliments but that criticism stays with us forever. We never forget an unkind word spoken to us or an unkind deed. Whenever we see that person the memories flood back. The enemy loves to do this to us to keep us in bondage.

3. We think we are O.K. as long as something was recorded in our memory.

Let’s say you memorize Romans 8:1. You no know there is no guilt for any sin. Wonderful. You passed the test. Does that erase the guilt you still feel? Just because you know something to be true does not mean you have applied that truth to your life. Therefore it is extremely important that,

4. Pastors must be diligent to go over the same gospel truths again and again. (Too many false teachers attract an audience by offering new and novel ideas.

Therefore I intend always to remind you of these qualities, though you know them and are established in the truth that you have.

Look at how often the Bible repeats itself. Deuteronomy repeats the 10 Commandments listed in Exodus 20. 2 Chronicles repeats much of 1 and 2 Samuel and 1 and 2 Kings. The three Gospels of Matthew Mark and Luke repeat many of the same stories.

You will notice that in many of my sermons I will repeat from Sunday to Sunday the truths of the gospel over and over. Some might say, “We’ve heard this before” and I will say, and you need to hear it again. And because you remember hearing it before it proves that it is working! Repetition is a proven methodology for learning, and we want it to be life-changing.

So, if you have heard it a thousand times before that Jesus died for your sins and paid the penalty in full, and that by trusting in his death and resurrection alone will you be saved by calling upon Him in repentance and surrendering to His Lordship? Why? Because you will hear false teachers today tell you that faith is not enough. They will tell you that belonging to their group is necessary to get to heaven. The Catholic Church has taught that only those who are Catholics are going to heaven if they are members in good standing and haven’t committed and mortal sins and have enough grace stored up by saying lots of Hail Mary’s. It’s not just the Catholic Church that will lead people astray. There are domineering and controlling pastors in evangelical churches who will insist that unless you abstain from the dirty 10 you won’t go to heaven.

And,

5. Faithful pastors know that time is short,
I think it right, as long as I am in this body, to stir you up by way of reminder, since I know that the putting off of my body will be soon, as our Lord Jesus Christ made clear to me.

John 21:18-19

Truly, truly, I say to you, when you were young, you used to dress yourself and walk wherever you wanted, but when you are old, you will stretch out your hands, and another will dress you and carry you where you do not want to go.” (This he said to show by what kind of death he was to glorify God.) And after saying this he said to him, “Follow me.” (ESV)

And,

6. Faithful pastors will do everything they can to help their flocks remember truths even after they have gone.

And I will make every effort so that after my departure you may be able at any time to recall these things. (ESV)

They will do this by being passionate about their love for Jesus and the Bible, and passionate in their love for their people. You may not remember everything I ever said all my sermons, but you will remember far more of what I say if you believe I am sincere in my belief and committed to seeing my flock make it all the way to heaven.