

“Established In TRUTH”
2 Peter 1:12-21
7/3/22
Message 2

Introduction

- Title of the Message is: “Established In TRUTH”
- **Review - The Need For Christian Maturity!**
 - **1 Peter Delt with Persecution from the Outside**
 - Nero = MAD Man
 - How to Deal with it persecution
 - **2 Peter Deals with False Teaching on the Inside**
 - **Before Peter Address the False Teaching and Teachers in the church**
 - He lets us know the most important thing to understand
 - We MUST BE MATURE Christian
 - We MUST be GROWING in the Faith
 - If NOT - We are vulnerable to false teaching and deception
 - **Last We Talked about GROWING in the FAITH**
 - Living the Victorious Christian LIFE
 - NOT living on the wrong side of the Jorden
 - Being Engaged

- Alexander MacLaren; “We may have as much of God as we will. Christ puts the key of the treasure-chamber into our hand, and bids us take all that we want. If a man is admitted into the bullion vault of a bank, and told to help himself, and comes out with one cent, whose fault is it that he is poor? Whose fault is it that Christian people generally have such scanty portions of the free riches of God?”

- **Peter GAVE instructions for Growth**

- His Part vs. 1-4
 - Grow in knowledge
 - Understand What God has given us

2 Peter 1:3–4 (NKJV)

3 as His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue, 4 by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.

- Our Part vs. 5-11
 - To be Diligent
 - MacArthur; That is, making maximum effort. The Christian life is not lived to the honor of God without effort. Even though God has poured His divine power into the believer, the Christian himself is required to make every disciplined effort alongside of what God has done
 - To ADD TO

2 Peter 1:5–7 (NKJV)

5 But also for this very reason, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue, to virtue knowledge, 6 to knowledge self-control, to self-control perseverance, to perseverance godliness,

7 to godliness brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness love.

- So We Want be SHORTSIGHTED
- Have an ABUNDANCE when we get to heaven

- **NOW This Moring Peter Gives Us 4 POWERFUL ways to be ESTABLISHED in the TRUTH**

- The **Marvel** Of Our Departure vs. 12-15
- The **Majesty** Of Jesus vs. 16-18
- The Power Of The **Message** vs. 19-20
- The **Method** God Used v. 21

The Marvel Of Our Departure vs. 12-15

- **First: The Reason For Writing v. 12a**

- **1st For this Reason:**

2 Peter 1:12 (NKJV)

12 For this reason *I will not be negligent to remind you always of these things, though you know and are established in the present truth.*

- Again - Peter explains why he writes about things they have heard before

- What we JUST COVERED - GROW

- **2nd I will not be negligent to remind you always of these things, though you know v. 12b**

2 Peter 1:12 (NKJV)

12 For this reason I will not be negligent to remind you **always of these things, though you know** *and are established in the present truth.*

- Even though his readers did know the truth

- It was critical

- In light of what was at stake

- Their eternal destiny
- It was worth it to go over, and over these ideas again and again.
- So Important that we're grounded in the FAITH
- This requires ALWAYS being reminded

▪ **Illustration**

• **Vic and Golf**

• **Jim Otto Hall of Fame Football Player –**

- **Want to have a good laugh**

▪ **Show Pic**

- While working for him I made the “mistake” of saying you told us this already...
- He was always driving home the basics – ALWAYS
- He answered me
 - This is how we became a championship team
 - By doing the basics all the
 - The Fundamentals
 - We practice them over and over and over again
 - That way when fatigue set in – it was second nature

▪ **Lesson**

- The same should be true of US
- Christians should never get tired hearing the basics the Word of God
 - OVER and OVER again
- **3rd Established in the present truth v. 12c**

2 Peter 1:12 (NKJV)

12 *For this reason I will not be negligent to remind you always of these things, though you know and are **established in the present truth.***

▪ **Established – Greek: Sterizo**

▪ **Means:**

- To make stable, place firmly, set fast, fix; to strengthen, make firm; to render constant, confirm, one's mind
- Steadfast & Not Moved
- Established is the same word translated strengthen in Luke 22:32

Luke 22:32 (NKJV)

32 *But I have prayed for you, that your faith should not fail; and when you have returned to Me, strengthen your brethren."*

- Here, Peter fulfilled that command of Jesus.
- He would establish and strengthen us by reminding us of the basics of the Christian life
- **Why – So you will be ESTABLISHED IN THE PRESENT TRUTH**
 - We need to be strengthened
 - 2 times in this letter – UNSTABLE is USED

- Peter will use the word unstable
 - The opposite of “strengthened”

2 Peter 2:14 (NKJV)

***14** having eyes full of adultery and that cannot cease from sin, enticing unstable souls. They have a heart trained in covetous practices, and are accursed children.*

2 Peter 3:16 (NKJV)

***16** as also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things, in which are some things hard to understand, which untaught and unstable people twist to their own destruction, as they do also the rest of the Scriptures.*

- Unstable Souls are
 - Enticed
 - Twist to their OWN Destruction
- Did You know – you can a BUNCH of HEAD Knowledge
 - And STILL BE UNSTABLE?
- **This why We need to be Reminded – We are so forgetful**
 - So that we can become Strengthened
 - Illustration on being repetitive
 - An Old song comes on – How many can remember the lyrics?
 - Name this TV Show?
 - Here's the story of a lovely lady
Who was bringing up three very lovely girls.
All of them had hair of gold, like their mother,
The youngest one in curls.

- Here's the story, of a man named Brady,
Who was busy with three boys of his own,
They were four men, living all together,
Yet they were all alone.
 - Till the one day when the lady met this fellow
And they knew it was much more than a
hunch,
That this group must somehow form a family.
That's the way we all became the Brady
Bunch.
 - The Brady Bunch,
The Brady Bunch,
That's the way we became the Brady Bunch.
- So Peter says –
 - I am going to continue to Stir you up –
 - Continue to awaken you
 - NEVER STOP

- **Therefore, my Job as a Pastor**

- Is to remind you of things that you already know – to stir
you up – awaken your heart
- So that – YOU MIGHT BE ESTABLISHED IN THEM

- **Second: The urgency in Peter's heart vs. 13-14**

- **1st I think it is right v. 13a**

2 Peter 1:13 (NKJV)

**13 Yes, I think it is right, as long as I am in this tent, to stir you up by
reminding you,**

- YES, I think it RIGHT – Why?

- Because of what is at stake –
 - SOULS
 - Abundance in Heaven
- Peter knew his life was coming to an end
 - Question
 - If we knew we only had 7 days to live – what would we communicate?
- **2nd Shortly I must put off my tent vs. 13b-14**

2 Peter 1:13–14 (NKJV)

13 Yes, I think it is right, as long as I am in this tent, to stir you up by reminding you,
14 knowing that shortly I must put off my tent, just as our Lord Jesus Christ showed me.

▪ **Peter**

- Considered his BODY as a TENT
- Knew his time was coming to an END

▪ **A FEW Lessons**

- **1st A Tent is a Temporary place to live.**
 - Tents should be taken care of
 - But you wouldn't invest large resources into fixing up a tent.
 - BUT SAVE the REAL Resources for
 - A more permanent place to live.
 - Our more permanent place to live is heaven

- We should invest more in heaven than in our tent – our physical body
- **2nd How did Peter know that shortly I must put off my tent?**
 - Peter was simply getting old.
 - Lord Jesus Christ showed him (John 21:18-19)
 - Church history tells us that Peter did die a martyr!
- **3rd This is JUST a TENT – We're Headed HOME**
 - Poor Lazarus – Took his TENT off and PUT on Heaven – then had to put the TENT back on UGH
 - Critical we REMEMBER – Heaven is REAL

2 Corinthians 5:8 (NKJV)

8 We are confident, yes, well pleased rather to be absent from the body and to be present with the Lord.

1 Thessalonians 4:13–18 (NKJV)

13 But I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep, lest you sorrow as others who have no hope.

14 For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus.

15 For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep.

16 For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first.

17 Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord.

18 Therefore comfort one another with these words.

• **Third: Peter Prepares for the Future v. 15**

2 Peter 1:15 (NKJV)

15 *Moreover I will be careful to ensure that you always have a reminder of these things after my decease.*

- **1st I will be careful to ensure that you always have a reminder:**
 - Peter put this reminder in a letter
 - So the people of God would have a constant reminder even after his departure.
- **2nd Lesson**
 - Leaving a Legacy
 - HOW are YOU leaving a legacy for the NEXT generation?
 - Are you Consistently in the WORD?
 - Are you Consistently in Prayer?
 - Are you Consistently in FELLOWSHIP?
 - Are you Consistently SERVING?

The Majesty Of Jesus vs. 16-18

• First: The Evidence of the Transfiguration vs. 16-18

- **1st We did not follow cunningly devised fables v. 16**

2 Peter 1:16 (NKJV)

16 **For we did not follow cunningly devised fables** *when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of His majesty.*

- Cunningly Devised – Greek: sophizomai
 - Means: know how to Contrive Cleverly

- Fables – Greek: Muthos (“myth”)
 - Means: A speech, word, saying; a narrative, story; a true narrative; a fiction, a fable; an invention, a falsehood
 - Listen to The Amplified Version

2 Peter 1:16 (ANT)

16 *For we were not following cleverly devised stories when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ (the Messiah), but we were eyewitnesses of His majesty (grandeur, authority of sovereign power).*

▪ 2 Lessons

- **1st False Teachers we’re making - False Cleverly Devised Fables**

- They did so to gain a following
 - Used by the Enemy
 - The Accused Peter and the REST of what they we’re actually doing
- False Teaching and Teachers need to be EXPOSED
 - I know people say even some Christians that we should never be critical
 - BUT the Bible is CLEAR we MUST warn
 - Paul named names
 - "There are 3 things men never ought to trifle with:
A little poison,
A little false doctrine,
& a little sin."
J C Ryle

- Illustration

- Church in Oregon

- **2nd Peter Said the Word was not based on clever fables or even half-truths**

- But on Eyewitness Testimony

- That they were eyewitnesses of His majesty.

- MANY of Which gave their live for the TRUTH

- **2nd Eyewitnesses of His majesty v. 16b**

2 Peter 1:16 (NKJV)

16 For we did not follow cunningly devised fables when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of His majesty.

- **1st The POWER and Coming Of Our LORD**

- The power and coming is a literary way of saying

- “The coming in power,” or “powerful coming.”

- The Transfiguration was a preview of Christ’s coming

- In POWER to reign over all the earth

- The false teachers who opposed Peter

- Said Jesus is NOT coming back (1 Pet. 1:3–7, 13; 4:13)

- It’s the same today – even in the church

- **2nd Eyewitness Of His Majesty**

- When did Peter eyewitness the majesty of Jesus?

- There were many occasions
- But one probably stuck out in his mind:
- The transfiguration of Jesus, recorded in (Matthew 17:1-8, Mark 9:1-9, and Luke 9:28-36)

Matthew 17:1–8 (NKJV)

- 1** Now after six days Jesus took Peter, James, and John his brother, led them up on a high mountain by themselves;
- 2** and He was transfigured before them. His face shone like the sun, and His clothes became as white as the light.
- 3** And behold, Moses and Elijah appeared to them, talking with Him.
- 4** Then Peter answered and said to Jesus, “Lord, it is good for us to be here; if You wish, let us make here three tabernacles: one for You, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.”
- 5** While he was still speaking, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them; and suddenly a voice came out of the cloud, saying, “This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. Hear Him!”
- 6** And when the disciples heard it, they fell on their faces and were greatly afraid.
- 7** But Jesus came and touched them and said, “**Arise, and do not be afraid.**”
- 8** When they had lifted up their eyes, they saw no one but Jesus only.

- **3rd This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased v. 17**

2 Peter 1:17 (NKJV)

17 For He received from God the Father honor and glory when such a voice came to Him from the Excellent Glory: “This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.”

▪ **The Father spoke from heaven**

- To declare His approval of and joy in God the Son.
 - Those words from heaven were important because
- WHY?!
 - Comfort

- Jesus had just told His disciples that He would have to be crucified
- His followers would also have to take up their cross to follow Him (Mark 8:31-38).
- His disciples needed this word of assurance
- Jesus is Superior
 - The words from heaven also clearly put Jesus above the Law and the Prophets.
 - Jesus was not merely another or even a better lawgiver or prophet.
 - Jesus was and is the beloved Son.
- **4th We heard this voice which came from heaven v. 17**

2 Peter 1:18 (NKJV)

18 And we heard this voice which came from heaven when we were with Him on the holy mountain.

- It was awesome for Peter and the disciples to see the transfigured, glorified Jesus.
- BUT....

The Power Of The Message vs. 19-20

• First: The evidence of fulfilled prophecy v. 19

- **1st And so we have the prophetic word confirmed v. 19a**

2 Peter 1:19 (NKJV)

***19 And so we have the prophetic word confirmed,** which you do well to heed as a light that shines in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts;*

- **BUT The PROPHETIC Word CONFIRMED**

- Peter's experience at the transfiguration was amazing.
- *Clarke; "Taken according to the common translation, it seems to say that prophecy is a surer evidence of Divine revelation than miracles; and so it has been understood."*
- SO Are you SAYING that...
 - The testimony of God's word about Jesus was / is
 - Even more sure than Peter's personal experience?
 - YES!!!!!!!!!!!!!!
 - The fulfillment of the prophetic word confirmed is a certain, reliable testimony of the truth of the Scriptures.
- **Lesson - Experiences Fade – BUT the Word Endures Forever**
 - **Experiences Pass**
 - But we have the sure word of Prophecy
 - Experiences may not produce lasting faith –
 - If anything, they might produce a craving for more experiences.
 - Illustrated
 - Israel
 - The most experiences in the History of the World –
 - Children of Israel

- Delivered from Egypt
- All of the Plagues upon Egypt –
- The Angel of death
- Red Sea
- Manna water from Rock – on & on
- YET a Whole first Generation –
 - Didn't enter into the Promised land – why?
 - UNBELIEF!!!
- Experiences fade – But the Word – Endures forever
 - *Unknown; “It was awesome for them to hear this voice ... from heaven. Yet the experience itself did not transform their lives. Only being born again by the Spirit of God did that, giving them boldness beyond measure. The transfiguration was awesome, but it was a passing experience until they were born again.”*
 - *Wiersbe Experiences fade, but the Word of God remains! Experiences are subjective, but the Word of God is objective. Experiences may be interpreted in different ways by different participants, but the Word of God gives one clear message. What we remember about our experiences can be unconsciously distorted, but the Word of God remains the same and abides forever.*

- Jesus;

John 20:29 (NKJV)

29 Jesus said to him, "Thomas, because you have seen Me, you have believed. Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."

- **SO In a WORLD that LIVE on FEELINGS AND EXPERIENCES**

- Let us live on the WORD of GOD
- **2nd Which you do well to heed v. 19b**

2 Peter 1:19 (NKJV)

19 And so we have the **prophetic word confirmed, which you do well to heed** as a light that shines in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts;

- **Fulfilled Prophecy**

- That's what sets Jesus Apart & The Bible Apart
 - The Reliability - The Bible is the WORD of God!!!
- Prophecies Concerning Christ
 - Over 300 prophecies about Jesus in the OT
 - Centuries before He appeared, promises were given concerning Him,
 - Micah 5 - Told us where He would be born
 - In Bethlehem - written over 700 years before the event!
 - Isaiah 7 - Way He would be born
 - Of virgin over 600 years

- Daniel 9 - How He came into the Jerusalem –
 - Over 500 years to the day, before it happened (More on this in a Minute)
- Zech. 11 - Betrayed by a friend and sold for 30 pieces of silver
 - Not 28 or 13 but 30 and that the silver would be cast down on floor in temple - used to buy a potter s fields over 400 years before birth
- Psalm 22 - What Kind of death he would die –
 - Over 900 years before it happened (Crucifixion)
- Illustration
 - Professor Peter Stoner has calculated that the probability of any one man fulfilling eight of these prophecies is one in 100,000,000,000,000,000 (10 to the 17th power).
 - That number of silver dollars would cover the state of Texas two feet deep. Stoner says that if you consider 48 of the prophecies, the odds become one in 10 to the 157th power.
- **Lesson – We would do well to HEED it**
 - Listen and DO – OBEY
- **3rd As a light that shines in a dark place v. 19c**

2 Peter 1:19 (NKJV)

19 And so we have the prophetic word confirmed, which you do well to heed as a light that shines in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts;

- **1st As Light Shines in A Dark Place**

- **1st This World is a DARK place**

- No need to illustrate this that much – Just turn on the TV
- Abortion Issue
 - Their Reaction speaks volumes

- **2nd The LIGHT –**

- Jesus shinny through us
- Keep Shinning
- God is light and His Word is light.

Psalm 119:105 (NKJV)

105 *Your word is a lamp to my feet And a light to my path.*

Matthew 4:16 (NKJV)

16 *The people who sat in darkness have seen a great light, And upon those who sat in the region and shadow of death Light has dawned.”*

Matthew 5:14–16 (NKJV)

14 *“You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden.*
15 *Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house.*
16 *Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.*

- **2nd Until the Day Dawns and The Morning Star Rises**

- The Dawning of Day
 - Signals the end of this present Church Age (Rom. 13:12)
- The rising of the morning star

- Pictures Christ's coming for His saints.
- The Sense of the passage
 - OLD FATS to the WORDS of GOD
 - UNTIL He Comes
- **4th No prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation v. 20**

2 Peter 1:20 (NKJV)

20 knowing this first, that no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation,

- **Knowing this first**
 - A call to recognize His truth as priority
 - Scripture is NOT of human origin.
- **Prophecy of Scripture**
 - All of Scripture.
 - This refers primarily to all of the OT, and then by implication to all of the NT.
 - This is one of two important Scriptures affirming the divine inspiration of the Word of God.

2 Timothy 3:16–17 (NKJV)

*16 All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness,
17 that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.*

- **Private Interpretation.**
 - The Greek word for “Interpretation” has the idea of a “Loosing,”

- *As if to say no Scripture is the result of any human being privately, “untying” and “loosing” the truth.*
- *MacArthur; “Peter’s point is not so much about how to interpret Scripture, but rather how Scripture originated, and what its source was. The false prophets untied and loosed their own ideas. But no part of God’s revelation was unveiled or revealed from a human source or out of the prophet’s unaided understanding*
 - The Word Came FROM GOD
 - False teacher UNTIE & LOOSEN – Meaning it their OWN ideas
- *Unknown; “The word translated “private” simply means “one’s own” or “its own.” The suggestion is, since all Scripture is inspired by the Spirit it must all “hang together” and no one Scripture should be divorced from the others. You can use the Bible to prove almost anything if you isolate verses from their proper context, which is exactly the approach the false teachers use. Peter stated that the witness of the Apostles confirmed the witness of the prophetic Word; there is one message with no contradiction. Therefore, the only way these false teachers can “prove” their heretical doctrines is by misusing the Word of God. Isolated texts, apart from contexts, become pretexts.”*

The Method God Used v. 21

• First: By The Spirit Through Man v. 21

2 Peter 1:21 (NKJV)

21 for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit.

- **1st Prophecy never came by the will of man:**
 - Scripture is not of human origin

- MAN did NOT Manufactures it!
 - It is NOT the result of human will.
 - As a MATTER of fact - The prophets sometimes wrote what they could not fully understand
 - But were nonetheless faithful to write what God revealed to them. moved by the Holy Spirit.
- The HOLY SPIRIT is the Divine Author
 - He Used MEN – Ordinary men – FEEBLE men
 - God SUPERNATURALLY spoke through them

Closing

- *Wiersbe; “Men die, but the Word lives. Experiences fade, but the Word remains. The world grows darker, but the prophetic light shines brighter. The believer who builds his life on the Word of God and who looks for the coming of the Saviour is not likely to be led astray by false teachers. He will be taught by the Spirit and grounded on the sure Word of God. Peter’s message is, “Wake up—and remember!” A sleeping church is the devil’s playground”*

Communion

- First: Remember (Looking Back at what Jesus did)
- Second: Repent / Reflect (Looking Within) 1 Cor. 11:27-28
- Third: Rejoice (Looking Forward) 1 Cor. 11:26
- Fourth: Reconcile (Looking Around) 1 Cor. 11:29, 33-34

1 Corinthians 11:23–26 (NKJV)

23 *For I received from the Lord that which I also delivered to you: that the Lord Jesus on the same night in which He was betrayed took bread;*

24 *and when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, "Take, eat; this is My body which is broken for you; do this in remembrance of Me."*

25 *In the same manner He also took the cup after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in My blood. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."*

26 *For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death till He comes.*