

**WAKE UP!**

 **2 Peter**

**Wake Up and Remember!**

 **2 Peter 1:12-21**

*The Peter Plan*

*What God Has Done (vs. 1-4)*

*What We Must Do (vs. 5-7)*

*What We Can Become (vs. 8-11)*

Corona virus – I knew we had a big deal on our hands – Seattle airport Feb. 29th and March 5th – masked people -- I started to pay attention. Then when they stopped play in the NBA and NHL and cancelled March madness…I knew this was a big deal! Not that those are the most important things – but to call a halt to these things meant, in our society, that we were facing something that was a really big deal. Then schools stopped meeting…You have got to be kidding…time to WAKE UP!

Why is the Peter Plan such a big deal? This what Peter will tell us today! Wake up!

**How Much Peter Reminds Us (vs. 12-15)**

**(vs. 12-15)**

Peter underscores the importance of the opening section, which is a summary of the gospel and the Christian life**.**

Can you believe…he reminds us of *these qualities* again?

**vs. 5-7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 15 (these things)**

***12****Therefore I intend always to remind you of these qualities, though you know them and are established in the truth that you have.****13****I think it right, as long as I am in this body,****to stir you up by way of reminder,******14****since I know that the putting off of my body will be soon, as our Lord Jesus Christ made clear to me.****15****And I will make every effort so that after my departure you may be able at any time to recall these things.*

**Look at the three words…**

Remind (v. 12)

Remembrance (v. 13)

Recall (v. 15)

**Remind, remembrance, recall what? These things!!!!**

**The Reason Peter Gives for Reminding Us (vs. 13-15)**

***12****Therefore I intend always to remind you of these qualities, though you know them and are established in the truth that you have.****13****I think it right, as long as I am in this body,[*[*h*](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=2+peter+1&version=ESV#fen-ESV-30476h)*] to stir you up by way of reminder,****14****since I know that the putting off of my body will be soon, as our Lord Jesus Christ made clear to me.****15****And I will make every effort so that after my departure you may be able at any time to recall* ***these things.***

I’m going to leave this life soon…THESE THINGS are what I want you to remember.

**The big deal about these things?**

* **Summary of Peter’s message! His most core legacy!**
* **Authentic Christianity –** living out of who we are in Christ (vs.1-2), living out the divine nature, the Spirit-filled life (3-4), with full devotion (5,10) to our relationship with Jesus (2,3,8) and growing in Christ-like character, the fruit of the Spirit (these qualities), (5-7, 8, 9,10, 11,12, 15).

Last week – 3 Options for new believers when the honeymoon wears off. Walk away, get real surrender and grow, learn to look good to church people when you need to. **Wake up and remember and give full effort to living an authentic Christian life!** Peter’s focus was this very thing. One key reason – Ch. 2 and 3 – false teachers who were fake! He is first calling true followers of Jesus to be especially diligent about being the real thing, before he exposes the fake. And after the challenge to be authentic Christians he focuses on why we can trust the truth of the gospel and the word of God, and the very teaching we just had, the Peter plan, as God’s inspired authoritative plan for our lives.

**Reliability of the Gospel, the Bible, and Therefore the Peter Plan (vs. 16-21)**

Now we come to one of the biggest challenges to the gospel to this very day – how do you know that what you believe is right? Some book written thousands of years ago – how could it be reliable?

* *Not Cleverly devised myths –*
1. *Similarities to Pagan Myths –*

“Jesus is a ‘copycat’ savior; copied from prior

mythologies that are strikingly similar to the Jesus story”

**Response #1:**

“Have you actually *examined* the mythologies that are typically compared to Jesus? Whether it’s Mithras, Osiris, Horus, or any other ancient myth, *none* of them resemble Jesus as much as skeptics claim. In most cases, the alleged similarities are simply *false*. The mythological characters were *not* born of a virgin as Jesus was born to Mary, they did *not* live a life that was similar to Jesus, they did *not* hold the titles attributed to Jesus, and they were *not* resurrected in a manner that is remotely similar to the resurrection of Christ. Can you, for example, name some of the specific, *confirmed* similarities between these ancient myths andthe person of Jesus?”

1/3

Whether it’s Mithras, Osiris, Horus, or any other ancient myth, none of them resemble Jesus as much as skeptics claim. Click To Tweet

For example:

First and foremost, the pre-existing mythologies described by critics are not as similar to the “virgin conception” of Jesus as they would like people to believe. As an example, neither Mithras nor Horus was the product of a “virgin conception”. Mithras emerged from rock and

Horus was conceived through a sex act between Isis and Osiris. While it is true that many pagan mythologies describe the gods having sex with mortal women, the blatant sexual activity of these mythologies is missing from the Biblical narrative.

1. Those who insist that Christianity is composed of myths that were pieced together…

~~A. the gospels are not myth-like at all (Luke 1:1-3).~~

~~B. They were composed to close to the events -- eyewitnesses still alive.~~

~~C. Chronological Snobbery – ancient peoples were superstitious, believed anything – not in Jewish or Greco-Roman world did they believe something like the resurrection of Jesus was going to happen, or that it was even possible or desirable! Jesus’ resurrection, the cornerstone of the faith, was unbelievable and unwelcome to the two main cultures into which it was first declared.~~

* *But Eyewitness Accounts Recorded in Inspired Scripture*

**Peter Paul John**

Jesus 0-33 Jesus 0-33 Jesus 0-33

|  |
| --- |
| \*Paul 60\*Linus 70\*Clement of Rome 95\*Evaristus 100\*Alexander 110\*Sixtus 120\*Telesphorus 130\*Hyginus 135\*Pius 150\*Justin Martyr 160\*Tatian 175 |

|  |
| --- |
|  \*Peter/ 50Mark \*Anianum 75\*Avillius 95\*Kedron 100\*Primus 115 \*Justus 130\*Pantaenus 195 \*Clement of Alexandria 210 \*Origin 250 \*Pamphilus 300 \*Eusebius 335 |

|  |
| --- |
| \*John 70\*Ignatious 110\*Polycarp 110\*Irenaeus 185\*Hippolytus 220 |

Codex Sinaiticus -- Council of Laodicea (350-363)

1. Inspired Writings (vs. 20-21; 3:15-16). Clearly talking about OT prophets in 20-21. But in 3:16 he refers to Paul’s writings as scripture. His reference to Paul is especially incredible since those who attack the reliability of the New Testament tend to insist that Jesus taught one version of Christianity and then Paul came along and invented a whole other faith, which is wrong and what we (believers) follow. Not what Peter indicates at all.

*I Timothy 5:17-18 – Deuteronomy and Gospel of Luke together*

1. Chain of Custody – Documentation of evidence – is it authentic, who handled it, has it been tampered with

The Apostles taught their students, who taught their students, who taught their students –

We have a chain of custody of the NT and the Faith.

Look at the chart—Peter, Paul and John’s chain of custody. We’re only going to look through Peter’s today, because we’re in his farewell letter. And his is the most thorough chain of custody!

Codex Sinaiticus – Oldest complete NT manuscript we possess. Has become the standard NT text for a long time. 350-360, NT as we have it today.

Note Peter – Mark, Mark’s gospel. Mark had five disciples --

Taught Anianum, Avillius, Kedron, Primas, Justus

Pantaneus – India had gospel of Matthew

Clement of Alexandria wrote extensively – quoted or alluded to all but a few NT books.

Origin – Quoted and affirmed all 27 NT books. He questioned James, 2 Peter, 2 and 3 John, but included them.

Pamphilus – affirmed the work of Origin. Pamphilus taught Eusebius. Prolific writer – *Church History* – Confirmed the whole NT.

Point – chain of custody from Peter. Eyewitnesses, not made up. John said the same thing (1 John 1:1). Eyewitnesses and reliable chain of custody of eyewitness writings.

I remember another local pastor and I wanted to read a book together – he suggested a collection of writings from the early church fathers. That was a good idea, I had not done too much reading like that. I was stunned by the amount of Scripture. I have been told that over 90% of the NT can be found in the writings of the church leaders in the first few centuries. I now know what they mean, whatever the actual % is. They write without doubt about what writings are Scripture!

***16****For we did not follow cleverly devised myths when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses of his majesty.****17****For when he received honor and glory from God the Father, and the voice was borne to him by the Majestic Glory, “This is my beloved Son,[[i](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=2+peter+1&version=ESV" \l "fen-ESV-30480i" \o "See footnote i)] with whom I am well pleased,”****18****we ourselves heard this very voice borne from heaven, for we were with him on the holy mountain.*

A big chunk of 2 Peter is re-affirming the truth that Jesus is going to return. There were false teachers who scoffed at this message, that Jesus was coming back. Peter was not speaking hypothetically about Jesus coming back in glory and power and majesty, in contrast to the lowliness of His first coming.

* *Eyewitnesses of His majesty*

They saw the transfiguration, where they saw His glory and heard the affirmation of His Father. So when Peter declares that Jesus is coming back, that Jesus will gloriously return to finish what He started at the cross and establish His rule and reign absolutely and forever, He has seen what it will be like. Peter is saying “It is Jesus’ reality…I saw a sample of it.” In the Book of Revelation, John starts with seeing Jesus in all His glory. Peter says, Jesus’ glorious return is not myth. Ch 3 --

* Fulfillment of Hebrew Scriptures

***19****And we have the prophetic word more fully confirmed, to which you will do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts,****20****knowing this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture comes from someone's own interpretation.****21****For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.*

*Affirms Old Testament prophets – in Ch 3 affirms Paul specifically, and the apostles and prophets (3:1-2), affirms at least himself, James and John here.*

The teachings of Peter and the apostles are true, reliable, Holy Spirit-inspired writings about Jesus and living for Him.

The OT Scriptures are inspired, true, and trustworthy. The NT Scriptures are inspired, true and trustworthy. Eyewitness, apostolic, inspired writings. The teachings of Peter therefore are reliable and true. The Peter plan is reliable and true.

Remember these qualities---these things! And now Peter is indeed long gone. But we have his last words to us. The heart of it is vs. 1:1-11. The Peter Plan. To live as authentic Christians. This is the big deal! Peter has told us why this is such a big deal!

Application – Legacy

1. Authentic Christianity

New Christians when the honeymoon is over – walk away, surrender and become full devoted, or learn how to look like very good Christians when with church people.

Not a thin glaze of Christian talk and activity over a pretty typical American life. Not an existence so cocooned in a Christian bubble that it is not lived in the fires of testing.

1. Older folks – we will die sooner than younger. What is our legacy?

Typical American church person --

My future is much shorter than my past – look to the past, to hang on.

Peter (disciplemaking mindset) – my future is much shorter than my past – look forward, what I can pass on!

1. The Word of God – Confidence, Devotion. I’m concerned we are too addicted to DVD studies that are neatly packaged. I am right with you on overcoming this addiction, BTW! And they are good studies. But…Are we actually getting into the Word of God? That is a burden I have as we plan to re-gather and go forward…I really believe we need to Word much more directly to our souls! Such as…
2. …These over this just marveling qualities, these things

I’ve read over and at the emphasis on these qualities, these things! Last week we looked at applying these things…recommended listening, not because I think I’m some great teacher, I don’t think that at all, I just know the focus is on how to live these qualities…

**Authentic Christianity –** living out of who we are in Christ (vs.1-2), living out the divine nature, the Spirit-filled life (3-4), with full devotion (5,10) to our relationship with Jesus (2,3,8) and growing in Christ-like character, the fruit of the Spirit (these qualities), (5-7, 8, 9,10, 11,12, 15).

Pray…