

“Remembering Scripturally”

2 Peter 1:10-21

Context: Peter writes a final encyclical that warns the Christian community of the danger of false teachers. The warning describes three characteristics about which Peter was primarily concerned: (1) rejection of the return of Jesus as Messiah, (2) a rejection of the word of God as prophetic truth, and (3) a promotion of a libertine, licentious lifestyle. After focusing on a life of specific Christian virtues, Peter gives attestation and warrant for the veracity and authority of his letter. The section that follows provides not only a contrast to the teachings of false teachers but, more importantly, the place where truth can be found. The verses that follow this pericope contrast the Scriptural truth with the constant procession of false teachers that have paraded their heresies before the faith community, even from long ago.

Pivotal verse: Be on your guard so that you are not carried away by the error of unprincipled men and fall from your own steadfastness (cf. 2 Peter 3:17).

1. Remembering the way supplied – 2 Peter 1:10-11

Peter seems to teach that Christ provides the Spirit to empower our practice of the preceding Christian virtues. Our synergistic practice assures us of both a clear path to, and sanctified entrance through, the sacred doors of Christ's eternal kingdom.

2. Remembering eyewitnesses – 2 Peter 1:12-18

The veracity and authority of Peter is presented first by appealing to their current possession of truth-in-hand. Second, Peter assures them that his martyrdom was prophesied by Christ and should not detract from the truth taught about Christ's return. Finally, Peter appeals to his experience of Jesus' transfiguration as warrant for the authority by which he teaches.

3. Remembering the prophetic Word – 2 Peter 1:19-21

The Scripture serves as God's story to give meaning to our experiences, especially when we seek to understand the place of God's call and election in our lives when circumstances seem so confusing. The truth of His word is made sure by the Spirit's illumination of it in the eyes of our heart.

For Further Study:

- In light of Peter's description of "making sure your election" in 2 Peter 1:10, there is a possibility of a third way of considering the security of our salvation. As a **Theological study method**, consider [the Randy Alcorn discussion](#), which might be of interest. What data points does an individual need to resolve the issue of God's sovereignty in light of man's responsibility in making calling and election sure? How are verses 10-11 comforting when considering the security of our salvation (see also Ephesians 1:13-14)?

- As a **Bible study method**, use Vine's NT Expository Dictionary to look up [hupomimnesko](#), translated as "to remind." What is the content of which Peter wishes to remind his readers? What does Peter's content bring to mind for you?

- 2 Peter 2:19-21 presents the prophetic Word as being sourced in God and spoken by men borne up by the Holy Spirit. What is the sufficient and necessary condition for someone to understand the teaching of the word (cf. Ephesians 1:18; Matthew 13:15; 2 Corinthians 4:1-7; 2 Kings 6:13-20)?

Transformation exercise:

Each time you open the Bible this week, ask the Spirit to open the eyes of your heart to the truth taught and then to help you remember that Scripture as you apply it to your circumstances throughout the day.