

12 - THE INSTRUMENT OF SPIRITUAL MATURITY (2 PETER 1:12-21)

I. The Need for Reminders (2 Peter 1:12-15)

A. The Purpose (2 Peter 1:12)

1. His Determination

- Peter was determined to continually remind them of the truth of God's Word.

Scripture Philippians 3:1 (ESV)

Finally, my brothers, rejoice in the Lord. To write the same things to you is no trouble to me and is safe for you.

2. Their Current Status

- He did this in spite of the fact that they were already established in the truth.

B. The Duration (2 Peter 1:13-14)

1. His Present Mindset (2 Peter 1:13)

- As long as he was alive, he would remind them of these truths.

2. His Future Outlook (2 Peter 1:14)

- Peter knew that his time was short as the Lord predicted.

Scripture John 21:18-19 (ESV)

¹⁸ 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.” ¹⁹ (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.”

C. The Continuation (2 Peter 1:15)

- He made every effort to make sure that when he dies, they would be reminded.

II. The Testimony Concerning Christ (2 Peter 1:16-18)

A. The Nature of the Testimony (2 Peter 1:16)

1. Not a Myth

- He tells them that they were not following cunning man-made myths.

2. The Truth

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- They were presented with the power and coming of the Lord Jesus Christ.

3. From Eyewitnesses

- Peter states that they were eyewitnesses of Christ's majesty.

B. The Testimony (2 Peter 1:17-18)

1. The Transfiguration (2 Peter 1:17)

- Peter refers to the transfiguration of Jesus Christ.

Scripture Mark 9:2-8 (ESV)

² And after six days Jesus took with him Peter and James and John, and led them up a high mountain by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, ³ and his clothes became radiant, intensely white, as no one on earth could bleach them. ⁴ And there appeared to them Elijah with Moses, and they were talking with Jesus. ⁵ And Peter said to Jesus, "Rabbi, it is good that we are here. Let us make three tents, one for you and one for Moses and one for Elijah." ⁶ For he did not know what to say, for they were terrified. ⁷ And a cloud overshadowed them, and a voice came out of the cloud, "This is my beloved Son; listen to him." ⁸ And suddenly, looking around, they no longer saw anyone with them but Jesus only.

2. His Personal Witness (2 Peter 1:18)

- Peter saw the majesty of who Christ is and heard the affirmation of God the Father.

III. The Testimony of God's Word (2 Peter 1:19-21)

A. The Validity of God's Word (2 Peter 1:19)

1. Confirmed

- Peter states that we have the prophetic word that has been confirmed.

2. The Exhortation

- We must be obedient to the Word as our light in the midst of darkness.

B. The Source of God's Word (2 Peter 1:20-21)

1. Not of Private Interpretations (2 Peter 1:20)

- We must recognize that scripture is not the result of personal interpretation.

2. Not by the Will of Man (2 Peter 1:21a)

- We must recognize that scripture is not the result of man's will.

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3. By the Holy Spirit (2 Peter 1:21b)

- Scripture were written by men of God who were moved by the Holy Spirit.