

Stir Up the Gospel Pt. 2

II Peter 1:12-15 Prayer Meeting, Wednesday, July 12, 2023 How Firm a Foundation

¹²Therefore, I will always be ready to remind you of these things, Remind—3x in these verses, then again 3:1-2 i. **What you have been given is precious and is under attack.** v. 12 seriousness of what is at stake (eternal life in eternal kingdom with THE KING) **A. The gospel is sufficient. Stay focused there.**

¹²Therefore, I will always be ready to remind you of these things, even though you already know them, specifically vv. 3-11, but rest of letter; other letter referred to in chapter 3; talking about common body of truth given; **I Cor. 15:1-4, Jude 3 write about our common salvation, content earnestly for “the faith”**—Peter, Paul, apostles preached it, believers gathered in established communities of Jesus followers based on “the faith” **Why need to be reminded IF already know it? What causes facts you believe to fade?** not seeing how it lives, disconnect from words and your life which means don’t really believe what think believe—pressure exposes what REALLY believe and “forget” what say believe—“memory fades fast when the pressure is on or when new and attractive teaching comes along” Davids p. 193, **new teaching** ie. Talked about some dangerous thinking exposed/lived represented by Rick Warren; talking about confessional foundation that dictates practice (the faith vs. faith) from the start, our unity has always been based on a common mission, not a common confession. For the first 80 years of the SBC, we did not even have a confession because the founders were adamantly opposed to having one! The serious fidelity called for to a confessional article on the nature of Christian ministry, Pastor Warren contends is the “death of the basis for cooperation upon which this body was founded.” Again he asserts, “That basis –

common mission, not a confession – was the founding genius that made the SBC great.” Forceful verbiage but quite wide of historical truth and the biblical standard of true Christianity. Warren’s open letter invites Southern Baptists to a missiological soufflé. Tom Nettles *Rick Warren’s Four Fallacies of Faithless Fraternity*. **what happens**

if focus on faith apart from “the faith?” focus on sincerity, genuineness, whether fulfilled in ministry/service, NOT standard, accountability, have goals that come from another final authority leaving **life that comes from “the mission” rather than mission coming from life of God**; whatever relevance, need to study culture, VERY important that figure out core; must be some eternal absolutes; **perhaps you weren’t given “the faith”**; but here, danger of not **living** by faith in “the faith” b/c something else more attractive than transcendent glories of eternal kingdom; Look to God and what He says is good news—focus here on gospel given you! **B. The gospel given has been lived. Live it now!** and

have been established in the truth which is present with you. you have! NOT trying to beat them up! Desiring to keep door open so people will heed warnings—need to continue work out implications of gospel in daily, ordinary life--**What did they have to stand against?** Persecution AND doctrinal error—we have just had doctrinal error, now, as Christianity thrown to side as not merely unnecessary, but more thrown to side as dangerous—**how do you do when excluded before even do/say anything?** problem not felt so much outside as among Christians as we wrestle with what REALLY important—Warren said “not trying to make anyone change theology” – just trying to help people who are being deprived of service and using gifts “I wanted to speak up for millions of Southern Baptist women ... I believe their spiritual gifts, their leadership gifts and talents, are being wasted,” said Warren, who considered himself well-positioned to make the case given his prominence, “tender heart, and thick skin.” _____; (think we more guilty than think of similar thought as look for “meaningful life and service”) but MUST have standard, doctrinal purity—comes from learning more about kingdom of heaven and treasuring it AND this will only come as know/treasure King of heaven; **what are the absolutes/foundation of faith—things you would fight to protect or not authentic gospel?** Not

final list—just think out loud—Scripture if can; **where would these slip?** (asked in membership what it would look like to defend/live these basic points--**We can teach, YOU must study them on own**) Christ at center Jn. 14:6, **II Cor.**

11:10, Eph. 4:21, must study Him—then hammer out practical implications of His payment for sins, being made righteous by Him & restored to fellowship with God, live to serve Him so in all things God glorified (He must be source of work as well as goal); MUST take from word to life—when fling words around so easily, mean nothing—must associate words w action/substance; **1. Can you articulate the gospel? 2. Are you conscious of how that gospel lives/effects each moment of each day in your life?** **Tripp Quest for More—big kingdom lived in same place as little**

kingdom lives 3. Can you identify other gospels that daily threaten the gospel? calling for you to defend and proclaim the gospel to yourself and others? (different priorities than the gospel); this is VERY much down to earth—inside history, someone shared the gospel with you; preached it to you; Schreiner notes that as this truth grasps them, grants them power to live in way pleasing to God; just as much down to earth to say that the creative and appealing views of false teachers are at best distracting, keeping from pure mission and obedience and stealing resources, but DANGEROUS; Peter reinforcing what already given speaks of power of gospel; Col. 1:4-6; strengthening gospel by reminders is job of Christian, pastors, people of God as whole—Rom. 15:14-16, 16:25, I Thess. 2:9, 3:2-4, 5:1-2, I Jn.

2:21, I Pet. 5:10; better get this b/c students of false teachers are unstable, II Pet. 2:14 warp Scripture II Pet. 3:16—remember Davids, “memory fades fast when the pressure is on or when new and attractive teaching comes along” p. 193 especially true when don’t have Bible or other Christian literature, but we need it when HAVE material that WOULD influence if we would only read it Davids, p. 194 (surrounded by it—I noticed personal drop-off in reading when media—tv, phone more accessible) Calvin

—commends their faith so they might “remain fixed in it more firmly”; must arouse the faithful, otherwise “torpor will creep in from the flesh” p. 379 (torpor--physical or mental inactivity, lethargy) security and indulgence should weaken what they learned and at length extinguish it Calvin, p. 379 so thankful for growing hunger here at CBC shown not only by more careful attention and participation in services (listening, answering, testifying, praying), but growth in responsibility outside to strengthen gospel roots through intentional spiritual disciplines (Word, prayer, fellowship of saints—stretching thoughts carefully w resources **but then working them**

through with each other); we need every bit as erodes around us and persecution increases—**watch unexpected scorn from other “professing Christians” even while make sure not calling persecution the correction you actually need**

II. Time is short. vv. 13-14

¹³ I consider it right, as long as I am in this *earthly dwelling*, to stir you up by way of reminder, tent, temporary shelter; Spoken of in similar way in **II Cor. 5:1, 4**, verb used in Jn. 1:14 to speak of the incarnation **word b/m flesh and dwell** tabernacled tented—doesn’t mean body not worth anything, just that time here marked/limited; Peter looking beyond--¹⁴ **knowing**

that the laying aside of my *earthly dwelling* is imminent, soon I will put it all aside; as also our Lord Jesus Christ has made clear to me. Perhaps vision, dream like on road to Damascus (common enough during this period in church history Acts 16:6-7, 21:10-11, I Cor. 12-14, I Thess. 5:19-22, II Thess. 2:2, I Jn. 4:1-3), or oral statement from Jesus **Jn. 13:36, 21:18-19** or another like it—Moo notes that (kathos—just as) which connects these two statements normally indicates correspondence rather than a cause—expectation of death in keeping w Jesus’ prediction about his end, NOT natural death--If I Peter penned from Rome in early 60’s, then if this combined w after 64AD, anti-Christian sentiment—ie. Persecution of Nero after great fire; combined w age (60 when perhaps average life span 40 or less, Davids), As look at end of my life approaching, THIS is right thing to do—remind you; ALSO, more than just our watching out for ourselves **So what if Peter dies; gospel is larger than him; not his alone to remind everyone; why is this “right” to remind them of this in view of his impending death? what dangers must be avoided when feel feeling shortness of time?**

John 13:36 Simon Peter said to Him, “Lord, where are You going?” Jesus answered, “Where I go, you cannot follow Me now; but you will follow later.”

John 21:18–19 “Truly, truly, I say to you, when you were younger, you used to gird yourself and walk wherever you wished; but when you grow old, you will stretch out your hands and someone else will gird you, and bring you where you do not wish to go.”¹⁸ Now this He said, signifying by what kind of death he would glorify God. And when He had spoken this, He said to him, “Follow Me!”

Romans 15:14–16 And concerning you, my brethren, I myself also am convinced that you yourselves are full of goodness, filled with all knowledge and able also to admonish one another.¹⁴ But I have written very boldly to you on some points so as to remind you again, because of the grace that was given me from God,¹⁵ to be a minister of Christ Jesus to the Gentiles, ministering as a priest the gospel of God, so that *my* offering of the Gentiles may become acceptable, sanctified by the Holy Spirit.

Romans 16:25 Now to Him who is able to establish you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery which has been kept secret for long ages past,

1 Corinthians 15:1–4 Now I make known to you, brethren, the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received, in which also you stand,² by which also you are saved, if you hold fast the word which I preached to you, unless you believed in vain.³ For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures,⁴ and that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures.

2 Corinthians 5:1, 4 For we know that if the earthly tent which is our house is torn down, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.⁴ For indeed while we are in this tent, we groan, being burdened, because we do not want to be unclothed but to be clothed, so that what is mortal will be swallowed up by life.

2 Corinthians 11:10 As the truth of Christ is in me, this boasting of mine will not be stopped in the regions of Achaia.

Ephesians 4:21 if indeed you have heard Him and have been taught in Him, just as truth is in Jesus,

Colossians 1:4–6 since we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and the love which you have for all the saints;⁵ because of the hope laid up for you in heaven, of which you previously heard in the word of truth, the gospel⁶ which has come to you, just as in all the world also it is constantly bearing fruit and increasing, even as *it has been doing* in you also since the day you heard *of it* and understood the grace of God in truth;

1 Thessalonians 2:9 For you recall, brethren, our labor and hardship, *how* working night and day so as not to be a burden to any of you, we proclaimed to you the gospel of God.

1 Thessalonians 3:2–4 and we sent Timothy, our brother and God’s fellow worker in the gospel of Christ, to strengthen and encourage you as to your faith,³ so that no one would be disturbed by these afflictions; for you yourselves know that we have been destined for this.⁴ For indeed when we were with you, we *kept* telling you in advance that we were going to suffer affliction; and so it came to pass, as you know.

1 Thessalonians 5:1–2 Now as to the times and the epochs, brethren, you have no need of anything to be written to you.² For you yourselves know full well that the day of the Lord will come just like a thief in the night.

1 Peter 5:10 After you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who called you to His eternal glory in Christ, will Himself perfect, confirm, strengthen *and* establish you.

1 John 2:21 I have not written to you because you do not know the truth, but because you do know it, and because no lie is of the truth.