

STIR UP THE GOSPEL

II Peter 1:12-15

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I. What you have been given is precious and is under attack. v. 12

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- I. What you have been given is precious and is under attack. v. 12**
 - A. The gospel is sufficient. Stay focused there!**

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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,

1 Corinthians 15:1-4

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Why do we need to be reminded if we already know it? What causes facts you believe to fade?

- Because intellectual knowledge is not enough to keep us from being entangled in depths of sin
- If no spiritual high beams, then other answers/values will fill the gospel void
- Maybe believing that facts are less important than our feelings
- As we repeat the “facts,” we add our own variation
- As different “teachers” come into our lives, if not rooted properly, swayed somewhere else
- Fixated on learning new thing & lose why & center
- Nature to be forgetful, God gave stones of remembrance, Red Sea, miracles – still forget greatness of God
- People change when they take hold of biblical responsibility & do it – think of all reasons we find to skirt our responsibilities
- If not actively living these facts

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Why do we need to be reminded if we already know it? What causes facts you believe to fade? (CONT.)

- People change when they take hold of biblical responsibility & do it – think of all reasons we find to skirt our responsibilities
- If not actively living these facts, then slips to something else without knowing it
- Bombarded with secular worldview more than gospel truth – Rom. 12:1,2
- Turmoil, busyness
- Because so basic, easy to think won't betray them
- More focused on facts, new facts, bigger facts—rather than foundation passed on – assume foundation
- I.e.) Jericho vs. Ai – victory followed by disobedience + failure –i.e. Gibeonite deception
- Good teaching repeats the foundation to build on it

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“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 – a 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 souffle.

Tom Nettles *Rick Warren’s Four Fallacies of Faithless Fraternity.*

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What happens if we focus on faith apart from “the faith?”

- Lose foundation for faith
- What is the tie?
- Focus on faith: yourself, your logic, experiences, sincerity
- Lose otherness from submitting to God’s authority
- Making us “god” as we determine standard
- Watering down gospel because not what God said anymore
- Truth + God’s power come from outside of us – therefore, must be suspicious of our own version of Christianity
- Beliefs determine our actions
- If mission becomes confused, then how do we determine who is saved, who is growing?
- So many alternative currencies for growth - intellectual, social concerns
- Focus on unity but end up divided without any standard to get to unity
- Can’t even agree on mission – church becomes known by adjective rather than the noun

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II PETER 1:12-15

- I. What you have been given is precious and is under attack. v. 12**
 - A. The gospel is sufficient. Stay focused there!**
 - B. The gospel has been lived. Live it now!**

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What are the absolutes/foundation of faith—the things you would fight to protect because without them, it would not be the authentic gospel?

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What would cause these “essentials” to slip?

- 1. We believe the Scriptures, both Old and New Testaments, to be the inspired infallible Word of God, without error in the original writings, the complete revelation of His will for the salvation of men, and the divine and final authority for all Christian faith and life.**
- 2. We believe in one God, Creator of all things, infinitely perfect, and eternally existing and manifest as Father, Son and Holy Spirit.**
- 3. We believe in the absolute Deity of Jesus Christ, His incarnation by means of Holy Spirit conception and virgin birth, His sinless life and miraculous ministry on earth, His death on the cross as a substitutionary atonement for the sins of all men, His bodily resurrection from the dead, His exaltation to the right hand of the Father as Lord, Mediator, Priest, and Advocate, and His imminent, personal return to bring into consummation His work of redemption by ultimate triumph over Satan and his hosts.**

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As the truth of Christ is in me, this boasting of mine will not be stopped in the regions of Achaia.

2 Corinthians 11:10

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

Ephesians 4:21

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because of the hope laid up for you in heaven, of which you previously heard in the word of truth, the gospel 6 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;

Colossians 1:5-6

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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. 15 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, 16 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 15:14-16

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,

Romans 16:25

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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 2:9**

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 3:2-4**

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 Thessalonians 5:1-2**

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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.

1 John 2:21

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 Peter 5:10