

Stir Up the Gospel

II Peter 1:12-15 Prayer Meeting, Wednesday, July 5, 2023 How Firm a Foundation

Remind—idea 3x in these verses, then again 3:1-2 in light of seriousness of what is at stake (eternal life in eternal kingdom with THE KING

¹²Therefore, I will always be ready to remind you of these things,

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

A. The gospel is sufficient. Stay focused there.

even though you *already know them*, these things, specifically vv. 3-11, but rest of letter; other letter referred to in chapter 3; but remember, Peter may not have even met these personally according to some I read (he may have been in Rome writing to those in Asia Minor), talking about common body of truth given; **1 Cor. 15:1-4, Jude 3**—Peter preached it, so did Paul; in established communities of Jesus followers **Why need to be reminded IF already know it?** Take away alzheimers, old age In face of forgetting **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. Thinking of article sent around about Warren; “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.” Christianity Today 6/14/23 Kate Shellnutt in New Orleans “Southern Baptists Reject Rick Warren’s Saddleback Appeal he is on 94.5—station many of you think too old fashioned—it faces dangers we talk about as recognize that same thing that makes music relevant is what makes preaching relevant—we call it understandable, valuable—old doesn't mean right, but need careful grid w both music, counseling, and preaching; NOT separate—all under Headship of Christ; think through implications for self, NOT merely picking on him, 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 – 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*. **what happens if focus on faith apart from “the faith?”** focus on sincerity, genuineness, NOT standard, accountability, goals that come from another/final authority; VERY important that figure out core—whatever relevance, culture, must be some 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, people fail to act on what they know—hence reminders of where grace comes from and mission along w warnings in vv. 3-11, chapter 2 speaks of reality of denying Master who bought them, 2:20-22 entangled and overcome; Green, “**given the transcendent importance of God’s act of benefaction and human destiny vv. 3-11, Peter intends to remind the readers of ‘these things’ that he has just outlined.**” pp. 207-208 THAT is sufficient to give hope to fight lack of character showing living for now instead of eternal, for self & desires instead of godly morality; susceptible to other attractive voices—“**For Peter, memory is the handmaid of morality**” Green, p. 205 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! Calvin paraphrase, NOT seeking to call them wrong, but desirous of warning them—so we must work to make sure door is open so people will heed warnings p. 379 so Peter encourages them that they have done work on their own to hammer out implications of gospel and lived inside it, it has been established—DON'T MOVE—you HAVE what you need! **last week, e**ncouraged to hear Mohler saying that we need to hash out particulars of transgender/politics/can't remember INSIDE local churches) **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 watch out for those crazies who identify with it; where do we feel this? Somewhat in the workplace as I think we've gone more and more undercover w gospel identity, but problem starts inside church w scorn of other Christians whittling us down (**covid-online church**, sports on Sunday—think seriously about never being in sports, but if kingdom norms not rooted, sports/other things that whittle prayer meeting will/have taken Sunday—life outside what God wants to do w group of believers together); people argue fiercely for “not dying on foolish hills” – must have 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?**

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. 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 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 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 1:5–6 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;

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.