

# STIR UP THE GOSPEL PT. 3

## PT. 3

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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  - A. The gospel is sufficient. Stay focused there!

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**II PETER 1:12-15**

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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## II PETER 1:12-15

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

- Jn. 14:6 – life/truth only through Jesus Christ
- God as Creator
- The inerrancy of scripture
- The “Solas”
- 1 Cor. 15:1 – Death & resurrection of Christ
- Trinity

- 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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### II PETER 1:12-15

## What would cause these “essentials” to slip?

- Failure to study & be/live under the word – lost in interpretation
- Focus on one \*attribute of God to the destruction the others
- Desperation that we don't lose people
- When other “realities” trump gospel truth
- Dependence on “flesh” instead of spirit
- Too hard



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  - B. The gospel has been lived. Live it now!

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- 1. Can you articulate the gospel?**
- 2. Are you conscious of how that gospel effects each moment of each day of your life?**
- 3. Can you identify other gospels that daily threaten the gospel?**

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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 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 1:4-6**

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

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

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- II. Time is Short. vv. 13-14**

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**“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.” 19 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!”**

**John 21:18–19**

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### What dangers must be avoided when we feel the shortness of time?

- Ignoring God's word/instructions/goals
- Quality – not rush or change focus (bucket list)
- Bulldozing with the gospel (looking for results)
- Misguided zeal – abide in Him (Jn.15) listening to God & obey
- Thinking our time is ours (too strategic) or feel tempted to do many things instead of following Him
- Willing for there to be unfinished business, even conflict that results from the gospel
- Have I “done enough” – feel like you haven't done anything for God
- Give up/I've failed or done all I could
- Forget that called to be faithful to end



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**“The nearer our journey’s end be, the faster should we run, according to our strength, in serving Christ, and doing good to souls: for when death is near the best will think the great part of their business undone.”**

**Alexander Nisbet**

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But avoid worldly and empty chatter, for it will lead to further ungodliness, 17 and their talk will spread like gangrene. Among them are Hymenaeus and Philetus, 18 **men who have gone astray from the truth** saying that the resurrection has already taken place, and **they upset the faith of some**. 19 **Nevertheless, the firm foundation of God stands, having this seal, “The Lord knows those who are His,” and, “Everyone who names the name of the Lord is to abstain from wickedness.”** 20 Now in a large house there are not only gold and silver vessels, but also vessels of wood and of earthenware, and some to honor and some to dishonor. **21 Therefore, if anyone cleanses himself from these things, he will be a vessel for honor, sanctified, useful to the Master, prepared for every good work.** 22 **Now flee from youthful lusts and pursue righteousness, faith, love and peace, with those who call on the Lord from a pure heart. 2 Timothy 2:16–22**

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**Summarize Peter's hope for these reminders. What would result from heeding these reminders?**

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**Seneca “noted that while ‘precepts alone are not effective in overthrowing the mind’s mistaken beliefs,’ they do ‘refresh the memory,’ as is necessary for proper action.”**

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**“As it is the duty and commendation of Christians not to be still fluctuating and unfixed in matters of opinion or practice in religion, so neither the promise of the Spirit to bring all things to their remembrance, nor people’s great knowledge and settledness in the truth, puts them beyond the need of the daily pains of ministers, whose work is not only to point out believers’ privileges and to inform them of what they know not, but to inculcate, clear, and press known truths and duties even upon discerning and stablished Christians, whose imperfection in knowledge, forgetfulness, laziness, formality and oftentimes conceit that much pressing of know truths and duties is needless, does require that they should be put in mind, though they know and be established in these things.”**

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- II. Time is Short. vv. 13-14**
- III. Maintain gospel-driven life for the rest of your life. v. 15**

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**What is implied/included in being able to “call these things to mind”?**



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**What does it take to stir people?**

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**What is involved/included if you would stir people by the gospel?**

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**What is involved/included if you would stir people by the gospel?**

**1. Be Stirred Yourself.**