

Stir Up the Gospel Pt. 4

II Peter 1:12-15 Prayer Meeting, Wednesday, August 9, 2023

Remind—3x in these verses, then again 3:1-2 **I. What you have been given is precious and is under attack.** v. 12 talking about 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. 2-11, vv. 2-4, talking about common body of truth given; **I Cor. 15:1-4. Why need to be reminded IF already know it? What causes facts you believe to fade?** Disconnect b/n words and your life--not seeing how it lives, not valuing position and promises so looking elsewhere for value, instruction (something that makes immediate sense, more fulfilling—quick gratification); talking about confessional foundation that dictates practice (faith vs. the faith) **what are the absolutes/foundation of faith—things you would fight to protect or not authentic gospel?** asked in membership what would look like to defend/live these basic points--**where would these slip?** Look to God through Christ and focus 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.** Peter saying they HAVE lived it and must continue to work out implications of gospel in daily, ordinary life as study God **1. Can you articulate the gospel? We can/must teach essentials of “the faith” YOU must study them on own** Christ at center Jn. 14:6, Eph. 4:21 **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); remember, false teaching only dangerous b/c you WANT it—feeding some need/desire—seems more attractive than gospel fullness (check your loves—security, affirmation, fulfillment, comfort, entertainment, family, etc. watch for teaching that gives you what fits apart from Christ’s provision to bring glory to Him as seek/build HIS kingdom, not yours) remember Davids, “memory fades fast when the pressure is on or when new and attractive teaching comes along” p. 193 Peter reinforcing gospel already given speaks of power of gospel; Col. 1:4-6, Rom. 16:25, Live gospel NOW! **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, ¹⁴ knowing that the laying aside of my earthly dwelling is imminent, as also our Lord Jesus Christ has made clear to me. as look at end of my life approaching, THIS is RIGHT thing to do; last week, looked at other side--**what dangers must be avoided when feel feeling shortness of time?** Death forces expectations, values to surface in ways that normal life often doesn’t—as think of Peter’s single-minded focus, Don’t forget **coxswain**--Rowers sit w back to direction of travel—coxswain does not row but steers boat, faces forward—uses that gaze to encourage and motivate, knowing rowers, coordinates power and rhythm of the rowers); THAT’s what Peter doing—it is RIGHT to remind b/c fulfilling calling to shepherd their souls to the end; **summarize Peter’s hope for these reminders. What would result from heeding these reminders?** ¹³**

consider it right, as long as I am in this earthly dwelling, to stir you up by way of reminder, **stir you up**—arouse from sleep, or waken courage, anger, or desire; 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.” In Green, p. 211, by keeping this in front of them, influence them to pay attention and hold the course; **NOT nostalgic—but stir to “maintain Christian virtue.”** Green, p. 211 vv. 5-11; not virtue alone, but virtue resulting from gospel—faith in gospel must live **Schreiner though know gospel, in a sense, must relearn everyday** p. 309; Christian knows there is more than whatever we see/ experience here; **MUST fulfill gospel calling all way to end even if you meet with “small success and great hardship”** Nisbet, p. 233 Nisbet continues, “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 (instill by persistent instruction), clear, and press known truths and duties even upon discerning and established 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.” P. 233 “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.” Nisbet, p. 234

III. Maintain gospel-driven life for the rest of your life. v. 15

¹⁵ And I will also be diligent that at any time after my departure you will be able to call these things to mind. **what is implied/included in being able to “call these things to mind”?** Summary of v. 12 w diligence added--effort of this letter, any other letter (some say Mark is preaching of Peter—Mark a follower of Peter—perhaps written after Peter’s death), regardless—any contact, any influence, AND any letter all point same direction; **Green v. 12** ancients saw letters standing in for living speech & for living presence of speaker; **when you think of me/my calling, want you to hear, “LIVE in line w gospel,” not only now, but ALL THE TIME in future;** (ie. Think taxes—crunch, then put out of mind until the next time) read this letter again and again so these things are “in mind”; will, emotions, goals, priorities all responding to facts of gospel, living looking ahead to One who promised, and who enables now to glorify Him; **THIS means must stop reading Bible from distance**—Peter, apostle, sent/commissioned by Jesus Himself—sent from the Father—THIS is my beloved Son—listen to Him; these are words from living God! this is where we need to focus ourselves AND with one another; Peter part of ones giving, now stirred them up—we must be stirred, then stir up those around us--**What does it take to stir people?** Help see value NOW in way that act/respond/emotions in line (what movies affect, now what LIVING thing affects—people, place, house, Susie w rocket launch on way home)—fascinates me about what fascinates others; but this is NOT what called to do—stir up w THESE things; **What is involved/included if you would stir people by the gospel?**

Exodus 13:3, 9 Moses said to the people, "Remember this day in which you went out from Egypt, from the house of slavery; for by a powerful hand the LORD brought you out from this place. And nothing leavened shall be eaten. ⁹ "And it shall serve as a sign to you on your hand, and as a reminder on your forehead, that the law of the LORD may be in your mouth; for with a powerful hand the LORD brought you out of Egypt.

Deuteronomy 7:18 you shall not be afraid of them; you shall well remember what the LORD your God did to Pharaoh and to all Egypt:

Luke 22:19–20 And when He had taken *some* bread *and* given thanks, He broke it and gave it to them, saying, "This is My body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of Me." ²⁰ And in the same way *He took* the cup after they had eaten, saying, "This cup which is poured out for you is the new covenant in My blood.

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 11:23–26 For I received from the Lord that which I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus in the night in which He was betrayed took bread; ²⁴ and when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, "This is My body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of Me."

²⁵ In the same way *He took* the cup also after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in My blood; do this, as often as you drink *it*, in remembrance of Me." ²⁶ For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

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,

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 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;