

# STIR UP THE GOSPEL PT. 4

II Peter 1:12-15

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  - 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**

- 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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**1. Can you articulate the gospel?**

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

- 1. Are you conscious of how that gospel affects each moment of each day of your life?**
- 2. 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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## 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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**Summarize Peter's hope for these reminders. What would result from heeding these reminders?**

- Established in the truth
- Not following their own path (tyranny of the urgent – danger of own agenda)
- Grow here (flourish) not restless because of unmet expectations
- V. 13 stir up —vv.5-7 these qualities yours and increasing
- V. 8 useful and fruitful from secure and growing understanding of identity in Christ
- Keep looking toward heaven
- No deviation from source of life, purpose

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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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**“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.”**

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- 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”?**

- That those who hear, care to listen
- Intention — think/meditate on practical implications
- Like Heb. 13 — consider outcome of their way of life and imitate their faith
- That we will know what we must
- Recognize need, want it, desire to change
- Remember depths of depravity, remember sufficiency of gospel

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## What does it take to stir people?

- You have to be excited about
- Personal ownership of what you're calling others to
- Add something valuable that they hadn't considered
- Ring of truth
- True love for others
- Willingness to be rejected
- Create/expose fear — show course of action
- Refreshed— means have to be in it already
- I Sam. 23:16 strengthened him in the Lord

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

**1. Be Stirred Yourself.**

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**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.**

**Exodus 13:3, 9**

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**Exodus 13:3, 9**

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

**Deuteronomy 7:18**



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**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.**

**Luke 22:19–20**

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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 11:23–26

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**What would show that we are not “remembering” the gospel as we live daily lives?**

- 1. Live condemned**
- 2. Live naturally**
- 3. Live independently**

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- 1. Be Stirred Yourself.**
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**“Ministry ‘unbalances’ truth for the sake of relevance; theology ‘rebalances’ truth for the sake of comprehensiveness.” “The whole truth is as wide as human experience, as deep as the human heart, and as unfathomable as the God who weighs all things and intervenes in all things.”**

**David Powlison, *Sanctification*, pp. 33-34**

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**True gospel living involves remembering the gospel, clarifying it, building character as you think through its implications for daily life and seek to live it, and then seeking to give and cultivate this same gospel in the lives of those God has placed in your life.**



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True gospel living involves remembering the gospel, clarifying it, building character as you think through its implications for daily life and seek to live it, and then seeking to give and cultivate this same gospel in the lives of those God has placed in your life. **What thoughts cross your mind as you hear this?**