

2 Peter

Lesson #4, Chapter 1:12-21

Read through Chapter 1 before beginning this lesson. Don't miss out on asking the Lord for His help as you study His Word.

1. What is Peter ready to remind his readers?
2. Even though Peter feels it is necessary to remind the believers of spiritual truths, what observations does he make about those to whom he's writing (verse 12)?
3. Peter makes an even stronger statement about the ministry of reminding in verse 13. From verse 13, what is his goal in reminding believers of the biblical truths of verses 1-11?
4. Why does Peter feel such urgency to keep reminding his readers of biblical truths (verses 13-14)?
5. What had Jesus told Peter about his death? See Jn. 13:36; 21:18-19.
6. What ministry goal does Peter reveal in verse 15? Based on verses 1-15, how does Peter plan to accomplish that goal?

7. Peter had a plan for building into those he ministered to. What about you? Do you have ministry goals for those the Lord has brought into your sphere of influence? If so, what are they and how do you plan to accomplish those goals? If not, start now by thinking of one person in your life and consider how you can encourage them to grow spiritually.

8. In verse 16 Peter hints at one of the reasons he has been so diligent in reminding his flock about the truth of God. What do you see?

9. What lends credibility to Peter's message (verses 16-18)?

10. What episode is Peter referring to in verses 16-19? Read Matt. 17:1-9 and describe the scene.

11. Immediately after relating his experience, Peter makes a surprising statement in verse 19. What is it?

12. Peter is not discounting his experience with Christ up on the mountain; he relates it to make a point. What is his purpose in referring to it here (verse 19)?

13. What is the *prophetic word* compared to? See Ps. 119:105; Prov. 6:23.

14. Explain *why* we are to pay attention to the Word. How *long* are you supposed to do that? Also note what you learn about the *morning star* from Luke 1:78-79; Eph. 5:14; Rev. 2:28; 22:16.

15. Peter uses the example of the transfiguration to make his case that *the Word takes precedence over experience*. Compare Luke 16:19-31 with 2 Pet. 1:16-21. How are these 2 passages similar in their message?

16. What are we to know first of all about God's Word according to verses 20-21?

17. What are the dangers of making the Scriptures mean what *you* want them to say, instead of what God intended them to mean?

18. From the Scriptures that follow, notice what God says about prophets, prophecy, and Scripture. Make observations about what you learn from each reference. Be sure to note how it relates to 2 Pet. 1:20-21.
 - a. Num. 23:5, 12, 26; 24:12-13.

 - b. Deut. 18:15-19.

 - c. 2 Kings 22:18-19.

d. Jer. 23:28-32.

e. Luke 1:70.

f. Acts 3:18.

g. 2 Tim. 3:16.

h. Heb. 3:7 cf. Ps. 95:7.

19. In verse 21 Peter describes men *moved* by the Holy Spirit. Read Acts 27:15 where the same Greek word is used. How does that help you understand what Peter is describing in verse 21?
20. Why are verses 20-21 meant to be an encouragement to us? How do they encourage *you*?
21. Summarize what Peter is trying to communicate to his beloved flock in verses 12-21.

22. What principles can we gain here from Peter about ministry, Christian life, and service until we depart from this life (verses 12-21)?

We owe to the Scripture the same reverence which we owe to God,
because it has proceeded from Him alone, and has nothing of man mixed with it.
John Calvin