



BAND of BROTHERS

SUMMER SERIES 2022 – WEEK 2

2 PETER 1:12-15 – Effective and Fruitful

I will make every effort so that after my departure you may be able at any time to recall these things.

– 2 Peter 1:15 ESV

- **It's a jungle out there**

- This world can be a dangerous and deadly place
- Jesus had regularly warned His disciples about things to come

"Here on earth you will have many trials and sorrows." – John 16:33 NLT

"...the world hates you, because you are not of the world." – John 15:19 NLT

"If they persecuted Me, they will persecute you as well." – John 15:20 NLT

"Look, I am sending you out as sheep among wolves. So be as shrewd as snakes and harmless as doves." – Matthew 10:16 NLT

"...you will be hated by all for my name's sake." – Matthew 10:22 NLT

- Peter is our highly experienced safari guide

*And as they were speaking to the people, the priests and the captain of the temple and the Sadducees came upon them, greatly annoyed because they were teaching the people and proclaiming in Jesus the resurrection from the dead. And **they arrested them and put them in custody until the next day...** – Acts 4:1-3 ESV*

*But the high priest rose up, and all who were with him (that is, the party of the Sadducees), and filled with jealousy **they arrested the apostles and put them in the public prison.** – Acts 5:17-18 ESV*

*...and when they had called in the apostles, **they beat them and charged them not to speak in the name of Jesus**, and let them go. Then they left the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer dishonor for the name. – Acts 5:40-41 ESV*

*About that time Herod the king laid violent hands on some who belonged to the church. **He killed James the brother of John** with the sword, and when he saw that it pleased the Jews, **he proceeded to arrest Peter also**. This was during the days of Unleavened Bread. And when he had seized him, he put him in prison... – Acts 12:1-4 ESV*

- Peter was a seasoned veteran of “the jungle”
- He had suffered greatly
- But he had remained faithful
- He had honed his spiritual survival skills

love
brotherly affection
godliness
steadfastness
self-control
knowledge
virtue
faith

- **Effective and fruitful**

*For if these qualities are yours and are increasing, they keep you from being **ineffective or unfruitful** in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. – 2 Peter 1:8 ESV*

- “If these qualities are yours” – AND THEY ARE!
- “If these qualities are increasing” – AND THEY SHOULD BE!
- They will keep you from becoming...
...**ineffective** – useless
...**unfruitful** – unproductive

- The knowledge of Christ as Savior should result in **effectiveness** and **fruitfulness**
- And as our knowledge of Christ increases, so do our effectiveness and fruitfulness

*...be on guard; then you will not be carried away by the errors of these wicked people and lose your own secure footing. **Rather, you must grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ**. – 2 Peter 3:17-18 NLT*

- **A much-needed reminder**

*Therefore I intend always **to remind you** of these qualities, though you know them and are established in the truth that you have. I think it right, as long as I am in this body, to stir you up **by way of reminder**, since I know that the putting off of my body will be soon, as our Lord Jesus Christ made clear to me. And I will make every effort so that after my departure you may be able at any time **to recall these things**.* – 2 Peter 1:12-15 ESV

- This is effectively Peter's last will and testament
 - He knew he is near death
 - So, he communicates his final wishes
 - That they experience fullness of life
 - grace knowledge godliness
 - peace self-control brotherly affection
 - virtue steadfastness love

- But Peter seems to be contradicting himself
 - He intends to remind them of these things – vs 12
 - But they already know them – vs 12
 - And they are established in them – vs 12

- In essence, Peter is saying, "Don't forget what you already know!"
 - He isn't telling them anything new
 - This was Christianity 101
 - But we're all prone to forgetfulness
 - And **forgetfulness** breeds **unfaithfulness**

- Moses' last will and testament to the Israelites

Remember how the Lord your God led you through the wilderness for these forty years, humbling you and testing you to prove your character, and to find out whether or not you would obey his commands. – Deuteronomy 8:2 NLT

*Do not become proud at that time and forget the Lord your God, who rescued you from slavery in the land of Egypt. **Do not forget** that he led you through the great and terrifying wilderness with its poisonous snakes and scorpions, where it was so hot and dry. He gave you water from the rock!* – Deuteronomy 8:14-15 NLT

*He did all this so you would never say to yourself, "I have achieved this wealth with my own strength and energy." **Remember the Lord your God**. He is the one who gives you power to be successful, in order to fulfill the covenant he confirmed to your ancestors with an oath.* – Deuteronomy 8:17-18 NLT

- This is what Peter is reminding his readers
- **You have all you need** for life and godliness
- Never forget it!
- And don't let anyone convince you otherwise

- **A much-needed wake-up call**
"I think it right...to stir you up" – vs 13

stir up – διεγείρω – *diegeirō*
 to wake up from sleep
 to agitate, to arouse the mind

- This is Peter's complimentary wake-up call
- He refuses to let them forget
- Because he knows "nature abhors a vacuum"
 - Failure to remember that God has provided **everything** will always leave you in search of **something**

*And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that **in all things, at all times, having all that you need**, you will abound in every good work.* – 2 Corinthians 9:8
 BSB

- Forgetting His provision breeds **discontentment** and **disillusionment**

*I am amazed **how quickly you are deserting** the One who called you by the grace of Christ and are turning to a different gospel — which is not even a gospel. Evidently some people are troubling you and trying to distort the gospel of Christ.* – Galatians 1:6-7 NLT

***You happily put up with whatever anyone tells you**, even if they preach a different Jesus than the one we preach, or a different kind of Spirit than the one you received, or a different kind of gospel than the one you believed.* – 2 Corinthians 11:4 NLT

- Peter preached the same gospel that Paul did

Paul

Let me now remind you, dear brothers and sisters, of the Good News I preached to you before. You welcomed it then, and you still stand firm in it. It is this Good News that saves you if you continue to believe the message I told you—unless, of course, you believed something that was never true in the first place. – 1 Corinthians 15:1-2
 NLT

Peter

"Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with mighty works and wonders and signs that God did through him in your midst, as you yourselves know—this Jesus, delivered up according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of lawless men. God raised him up, loosing the pangs of death, because it was not possible for him to be held by it." – Acts 2:22-24 NLT

“This Jesus God raised up, and of that we all are witnesses. Being therefore exalted at the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, he has poured out this that you yourselves are seeing and hearing.” – Acts 2:32 NLT

- **Every effort...**

***I will make every effort** so that after my departure you may be able at any time to recall these things. – 2 Peter 1:15 ESV*

- Peter was committed to the message of the gospel
- And he intended to keep on reminding them – even after death
- Peter and the Gospel of Mark
 - Many scholars believe that Mark’s gospel was heavily influenced by Peter
 - It seems that they first met after Peter’s miraculous escape from Herod’s prison

The night before Peter was to be placed on trial, he was asleep, fastened with two chains between two soldiers. Others stood guard at the prison gate. Suddenly, there was a bright light in the cell, and an angel of the Lord stood before Peter. The angel struck him on the side to awaken him and said, “Quick! Get up!” And the chains fell off his wrists. Then the angel told him, “Get dressed and put on your sandals.” And he did. “Now put on your coat and follow me,” the angel ordered.

So Peter left the cell, following the angel. But all the time he thought it was a vision. – Acts 12:6-9 NLT

Peter finally came to his senses. “It’s really true!” he said. “The Lord has sent his angel and saved me from Herod and from what the Jewish leaders had planned to do to me!”

When he realized this, he went to the home of Mary, the mother of John Mark, where many were gathered for prayer. – Acts 12:11-12 NLT

- Peter became John Mark’s spiritual father

Your sister church here in Babylon sends you greetings, and so does my son Mark. – 1 Peter 5:13 NLT

- Many of the early church father’s regarded Peter as the source of Mark’s gospel

*“Mark became Peter’s interpreter and wrote accurately all that he remembered, not, indeed, in order, of the things said and done by the Lord.” – Papias, the bishop of Hierapolis, *Interpretation of the Lord's Sayings* (about 130 AD)*

- In 180 AD, Irenaeus described Mark as Peter's interpreter and compiler of his memoirs after his death

- In a sense, Peter told his readers that he was going to “haunt them”
 - He would continue to remind them long after he was gone
 - Through the record found in Mark’s gospel
 - One of the events Mark would record in his gospel is the Transfiguration of Jesus

*Six days later Jesus took **Peter**, James, and John, and led them up a high mountain to be alone. As the men watched, Jesus’ appearance was transformed, and his clothes became dazzling white, far whiter than any earthly bleach could ever make them. Then Elijah and Moses appeared and began talking with Jesus. – Mark 9:2-4 NLT*

***Peter exclaimed**, “Rabbi, it’s wonderful for us to be here! Let’s make three shelters as memorials—one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.” He said this because he didn’t really know what else to say, for they were all terrified. – Mark 9:5-6 NLT*

- Peter will bring up this life-altering event in his letter
- He will use it as a defense of his apostleship

For we were not making up clever stories when we told you about the powerful coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. **We saw his majestic splendor** with our own eyes when he received honor and glory from God the Father. The voice from the majestic glory of God said to him, “This is my dearly loved Son, who brings me great joy.” **We ourselves heard that voice from heaven** when **we were with him** on the holy mountain. – 2 Peter 1:16-18 NLT

- **Discussion questions**

Why is it so important that we be constantly reminded that God has given us everything we need for living the godly life?

Go back and read Deuteronomy 8:7-14. What does Moses indicate can threaten our ability to remember all that God has provided?

How could we each do a better job of reminding one another of God’s goodness?

FOR NEXT WEEK: Read 2 Peter 1:16-2:3 and pages 21-28 in Ken’s Devotional™ on 2 Peter.