

[12] So I will always remind you of these things, even though you know them and are firmly established in the truth you now have. [13] I think it is right to refresh your memory as long as I live in the tent of this body, [14] because I know that I will soon put it aside, as our Lord Jesus Christ has made clear to me. [15] And I will make every effort to see that after my departure you will always be able to remember these things.

- Vs. 12 why would Peter continue to remind them?
- What truth is he referring to?
- Vs.13-14 What will stop Peter from refreshing them?
- Vs. 15 What is the goal that Peter has set for them?

[16] We did not follow cleverly invented stories when we told you about the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses of his majesty. [17] For he received honor and glory from God the Father when the voice came to him from the Majestic Glory, saying, “This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased.” [18] We ourselves heard this voice that came from heaven when we were with him on the sacred mountain.

- Vs. 16 The word stories means myths or fables. How does Peter contrast these with what he has told them?
- Vs 17-18 Peter is referring the incident of Matthew 17.1-6. What did Peter want to do? Why did God interrupt him?
- Why do you think he did not mention an interruption as he retold the story?

[19] And we have the word of the prophets made more certain, and you will do well to pay attention to it, as to a light shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts. [20] Above all, you must understand that no prophecy of Scripture came about by the prophet's own interpretation. [21] For prophecy never had its origin in the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.

- Vs. 19 How did the coming of Jesus make the prophets words more certain?
- Why should we read and study the scriptures?
- How were the scriptures given? See also 1 Timothy 3.16
- Vs. 20-21 The description ‘*carried along*’ has also been translated ‘*moved*.’ The word comes from the word used to describe when a tree *produces* fruit. How does this help you understand how scripture came to be?
- Read John 1.14 How does this help us understand the purpose of written scripture?



Study lesson #1 *Keeping on track*

© 2014 Rev. Bob Highlands III - Text 2 Peter 1.1-21^{NIV}

[2Pe 1:1] Simon Peter, a servant and apostle of Jesus Christ, To those who through the righteousness of our God and Savior Jesus Christ have received a faith as precious as ours:

[2] Grace and peace be yours in abundance through the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord.

- Vs. 1 What do you know about this Simon Peter?
- The word ‘apostle’ means ‘a messenger’ or ‘one sent on a mission.’ Why does Peter call himself an apostle? See Matthew 10.2-5; 1 Corinthians 12.28-31; Ephesians 1.1; Hebrews 3.1; Revelation 2.2
- Why is the righteousness of Jesus So important to the believer?
- What does it mean to you to have ‘faith?’
- Read Romans 10.17 The word faith means to be convinced by argument that something is true or false. How does this verse and definition tie in to what you believe?
- Is faith emotional, intellectual, or spiritual? Explain your answer.

[3] His divine power has given us everything we need for life and godliness through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness.

- Vs. 3 what is the key to understanding ‘everything we need’ in this verse. See Deuteronomy 8.3 & Matthew 4.4
- Does this mean that God will only meet our spiritual needs and not our physical needs? See Luke 12.22-31

- ❑ From Luke what do we learn is the key to understanding our needs.

[4] Through these he has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature and escape the corruption in the world caused by evil desires.

- ❑ Vs. 4 what do you consider the greatest promise He has given to us? Why?
- ❑ How do we participate in the divine nature? See John 14.26 & Acts 1.4-5
- ❑ How does this help us ‘escape corruption’ and ‘escape evil desires?’

[5] For this very reason, make every effort to add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge; [6] and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness; [7] and to godliness, brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness, love.

- ❑ Using the definitions below, how is each one important to the maturing and growth of a Christian?
- ❑ **Faith** = being convinced by argument See also Ephesians 2.8 & Hebrews 11.6
- ❑ **Goodness** = earnestness or every effort you can
- ❑ **Knowledge** = understanding of knowledge (applied)
- ❑ **Self-control** = controlling your strength (being meek) see also Matthew 5.5; Galatians 5.23; 2 Timothy 3.3
- ❑ **Perseverance** = patient enduring see also Philippians 1.29; 1 Peter 1.6; 4.19
- ❑ **Godliness** = living your life ‘well’ or as god wants you to
- ❑ **Brotherly Kindness** = the love of brothers (by implication others especially other Christians) (philos = human love)
- ❑ **Love** = (agape = deep love or committed sacrificing love) see also 1 Corinthians 13.1-13; Matthew 22.37-39
- ❑ Vs. 5 Do we depend on God to furnish these or are we to work to acquire these qualities? Explain.
- ❑ Does Peter want you to tackle all these at once or does he lay out another method?

- ❑ Which of the qualities on this list do you need to work on the most? Why?
- ❑ What can you do to strengthen or work on the these?

[8] For if you possess these qualities in increasing measure, they will keep you from being ineffective and unproductive in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. [9] But if anyone does not have them, he is nearsighted and blind, and has forgotten that he has been cleansed from his past sins.

- ❑ Vs. 8 What will these 8 qualities do for the believer?
- ❑ What is the opposite of being ‘ineffective and unproductive, and what are the expected results?’
- ❑ Vs. 9 What does the lack of these say about the person and his/her relationship with God?
- ❑ Why is it important to remember your cleansing from sin that are forgiven?

[10] Therefore, my brothers, be all the more eager to make your calling and election sure. For if you do these things, you will never fall, [11] and you will receive a rich welcome into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

- ❑ See Luke 19.10; Romans 3.22; 6.10 Who did Jesus die for?
- ❑ Vs. 10 the calling referred to here is to be invited and election refers to His choice to accept those who respond. How does this help us understand what Jesus did for us?
- ❑ Read 1 Peter 1.2 Foreknowledge is “to know in advance or beforehand.” Does it say God made the choice for them or that God knows their choice? (which came first the chicken or the egg?)
- ❑ Does God cause the choice or know the choice? Why is this important to our understanding of salvation?
- ❑ How can Peter say “you will never fall?” see Hebrews 2.1; 6.4-5; 10.26-31
- ❑ What about practicing these 8 qualities could keep you from sinning and falling away from God?