

Round Top Church Christian Fellowship

Sermon Series in 2 Peter

2 Peter 1 Part II

We are Eyewitnesses

April 9th, 2017 A.D.

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(All Scripture is from the New American Standard Bible, unless otherwise noted.)

2 Peter ¹² Therefore, I shall always be ready to remind you of these things,

even though you *already* know *them*,

and **have been established** in the truth which is **present with you.**

¹³ And I consider it right,

as long as I am in this *earthly* dwelling,

to **stir you up** by way of **reminder,**

We parents know how Peter views his role in guiding the lives of the people to whom he is writing ~~to~~. Parents give instruction to their children all the time and in triplicate. Why? Children get side-tracked easily and forget about their surroundings as they get caught-up in their play and relationships with other children. So, we constantly direct them in an attempt that they will not stump their toe.

Raising my son, Chris, was a challenge. We gave him a bicycle which he loved to ride. I taught him how to be safe and ~~do~~ not ride bare-footed and keep his hands on the handlebars. This was before the

days that helmets were advisable to wear. I constantly told him to be safe and ~~do~~ not attempt to do stunts like he saw other children perform. However, one day, he came home from the park pushing his bike. The frame was bent as the bike had been wrapped around a pole or a tree. He told me that he was jumping the big dirt mounds at that park and lost control of his bike and hit a tree with such force that the impact bent the frame. That was the last bike I bought Chris. I never bought him roller-skates or a skate-board, roller blades or a bicycle again. This saved his life or at least from getting seriously injured.

We have signs and symbols all around us every day that remind us of danger and to be safe. Speed Limit Signs, Stop Signs, and Do Not Enter Signs to name a few. These are constant. Why does society have these signs? Because we are focused on other things other than driving. If you really think about it, when we drive we take control of an object that weighs thousands of pounds and project that object forward at speeds up to 80 mph (toll road speed limit) for most of us. If you do not pay attention and hit something, you can be, or another person can be, seriously injured or killed. People are warned not to drive drunk or while on medication, but they ~~do~~ drive anyway. All the warnings are constantly all around us, but people still choose destructive behavior.

Therefore, God is there to constantly remind us, to stir us up for our own good. Peter, as God's writing instrument, positions his voice to be heard after he dies. In verse fifteen, he encourages his audience to be diligent after he has died. Peter writes, "You may be able to call these things to mind." This is what the Lord wants us to do. Call Him and His teachings to mind.

Now the voice of Peter and of Jesus are one. WHY? Peter receives from Jesus just as Paul did. When we take the Lord's Supper, we often recite~~d~~ the words Paul wrote to the church in Corinth. 1 Cor. 11 . . . Paul tells them that what he has received from the Lord he

passes on to them. What did Paul receive? EVERYTHING. Paul received EVERYTHING from Jesus Christ. Paul, like Peter, is emptying himself into his audience before he dies. They both know their lives will be short-lived because of their witness for the Lord. God gave them the audience in which to write. The audience that will continue in history. You and I are the audience.

We are eyewitnesses.

Of what are we eyewitnesses?

Did we make up our own religion?

Did we make up our own experience based upon our own imagination and cleverly devised tales?

Some people have followed, and then taught, others from their own imaginations. Due to a few people, we have radical Islamic terrorists plaguing the earth. We have people pursuing the imagination of Joseph Smith, Herbert W. Armstrong, Charles Taze Russel and Sun Myung Moon to name a few. A tragedy in American history was on November 18, 1978, when the "Peoples Temple" leader, Jim Jones, instructed all members living in the Jonestown, Guyana compound to commit an act of "revolutionary suicide" by drinking poisoned punch. Hence, we receive the saying, "They drank the Kool-aide." The tragedy for all those who have lived destructive lives is that The Lord our God has already provided a place for them that requires no act of theirs to enter into His kingdom. He has gone and prepared a place for us (John 14:1-6). Man attempts time and time again to save himself only to entrap his soul in the snares of his futile mind. Left alone, man will destroy himself.

Are we eyewitnesses of our lives being changed by the Lord?

For some, it was as in the twinkle of an eye. For others, a period of time passed and then they looked back and saw that a year ago they were a different person. When I was a young man, I was asked by a Bible teacher if I was closer to the Lord than I was the year previously. I had to think. The question caught me off-guard. My immediate thought was that I was, then I had to think of what aspect of my life had changed. Where was the growth? Was my growth visible to others? God knows my condition.

Science tells us that every cell in our body is replaced over a period of time. Our different body parts have different time frames for cell replacement. They are not all replaced every seven years as is popularly quoted. In fact, Neurons in the cerebral cortex are *never* replaced. There are no neurons added to your cerebral cortex after birth. Any cerebral cortex neurons that die are not replaced. This is why people who take certain illegal drugs are mentally demented after taking drugs. The drugs that they take destroy their brain cells and are never replaced. In simple terms, they are dumber.

We age because in this ‘replacement process’ the cells are not duplicated exactly as the ones that are being replaced. The new cells are close, but a bit altered. Therefore, over time, our body breaks down. If we eat correctly and exercise enough, our bodies are supplied with the right tools to create new cells that are close to the previous version but still not exact replicas. If the body does not have all the nutrients it needs to replace the cell, the new cell is further diminished. There will be no “new and improved you.” There will be a new you, but not improved.

So, as our bodies break down, God has designed us to allow Him to grow in us. Except, this time, the old understanding is replaced by a new understanding that continues to grow in fulfillment of the Lord in

our lives. We are new and improved! The Lord who started His good work in us will complete His good work.

Phil. 1:6 For I am confident of this very thing, that He who began a good work in you will perfect it until the day of Christ Jesus.

1Thess 3:13 so that He may establish your hearts unblamable in holiness before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all His saints.

1Thess. 5:23 Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be preserved complete, without blame at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Colossians 2:7 having been firmly rooted and now being built up in Him and established in your faith, just as you were instructed, and overflowing with gratitude.

Our physical bodies decrease, and the presence of the Lord increases. Peter knows this. Since he met the Lord, he has been filling up his heart and soul with the teachings and understandings of the Lord. When Peter is about to depart, and he is transferring all he knows about the Lord (that the Lord gave him to write and speak) to his audience. What he received he passes on to others.

So, are we eyewitness of Jesus? Yes, we are. Our lives have changed! We are growing in the Lord! Or is it more accurate to say that the Lord is growing in us? The more time passes, the more Jesus comes into us. We are constantly transforming into His image. This rate of spiritual replacement is not the same for everyone, but it is taking place.

Romans 8:29 For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to become **conformed** to the image of His Son, that He might be the first-born among many brethren;

Titus 3:5-7 ⁵ He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy, by the **washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit**, ⁶ whom He poured out upon us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, ⁷ that being justified by His grace we might be made heirs according to *the* hope of eternal life.

Romans 12:2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be **transformed by the renewing of your mind**, that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.

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even though you *already* know *them*,

and **have been established** in the truth which is **present with you**.

¹³ And 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.

¹⁵ And I will also be diligent

that at any time after my departure

you may be able to call these things to mind.

¹⁶ For we did not follow cleverly devised tales
when we made known to you
the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ,
but we were **eyewitnesses** of His majesty.

¹⁷ For when He received honor and glory from God the Father,
such an utterance as this was made to Him by the Majestic
Glory,

"This is My beloved Son with whom I am well-pleased "--

¹⁸ and we ourselves heard this utterance

made from heaven

when we were with Him on the holy mountain.

Matthew 17:1-9 ¹ And six days later Jesus took with Him **Peter and James and John** his brother, and brought them up to a **high mountain** by themselves.

² And He was **transfigured before them**; and His face shone like the sun, and His garments became as white as light.

³ And behold, **Moses and Elijah appeared to them, talking with Him.**

⁴ And Peter answered and said to Jesus, "Lord, it is good for us to be here; if You wish, I will make three tabernacles here, one for You, and one for Moses, and one for Elijah."

⁵ While he was still speaking, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them; and behold, a voice out of the cloud, saying,

"This is My beloved Son, with whom I am well-pleased; listen to Him!"

⁶ And when the disciples heard *this*, they fell on their faces and were much afraid.

⁷ And Jesus came to *them* and touched them and said, "Arise, and do not be afraid."

⁸ And lifting up their eyes, they saw no one, except Jesus Himself alone.

⁹ And as they were coming down from the mountain, Jesus commanded them, saying, "**Tell the vision to no one until the Son of Man has risen from the dead.**"

¹⁹ And so we have the prophetic word *made* more sure,

to which you do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place,

until the day dawns and the **morning star** arises in your hearts.

Rev 22:16

"I, Jesus, have sent My angel to testify to you these things for the churches. I am the root and the offspring of David, **the bright morning star.**"

²⁰ But know this first of all,

that no prophecy of Scripture is *a matter* of one's own interpretation,

²¹ **for no prophecy was ever made by an act of human will,**

but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.

The Bible, as we call it, or we can say, "The Word", became flesh and dwelt among us two thousand years ago (John 1). We have before us a living document that has always been, is and will be. Make no mistake; "The Word" is not really printed language on a page. The Word is alive, living in each believer's heart. The Word cannot be altered by man no more than the creation itself can be changed by man. God, as Jesus, says He is the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. He is, He will be. This is the eternal Word.

Rev. 1:8 "I am the Alpha and the Omega,"
says the Lord God,
"who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty."

Rev. 21:6 And He said to me, "It is done.
I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end.
I will give to the one who thirsts from the spring of the water of life
without cost.

Rev. 22:13 "I am the Alpha and the Omega,
the first and the last, the beginning and the end."