

Grow in the Grace and Knowledge of Our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ

An Expository Journey Through 2Peter 6- The Apostles Were Eyewitnesses of Christ's Majesty!

June 21, 2020

2Peter 1:12-19

12 Therefore, I will 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 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 will 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.

19 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.

To the Glory of God

Peter has a lot to say about Salvation. And he has a lot to say about the 2nd Coming of Jesus to this earth. But what we have to try to grasp is that the Work of Christ in Salvation- does NOT merely restore us to God- but it advances God's primary Goal in Creation. Tray hard, dear friends, to not think of Jesus as a "Remedy" for the Fall; or as some "Afterthought" to recover what was lost when Adam sinned. The History of Redemption climaxes with the Cross- not only as a "means" of Restoration- but also as a "means" of Advance and Completion.

Jesus Christ was the ultimate Goal of Creation- NOT as a "means" to that Goal. So, Jesus did NOT just "recover" a Goal- JESUS IS THE GOAL!

And by His Incarnation; Sinless Life; Death; Resurrection; Ascension; and 2nd Coming- the Glory of God was put on new display in its most *vivid* and *lavish* Excellency. So, Jesus did NOT come and die and rise only to *restore* our Joy in God- but so that He WOULD BECOME OUR JOY IN GOD! The incarnate God did not appear simply to *enable* us to rejoice in God- but so that HE WOULD BECEOME THE FOCUS OF OUR REJOICING IN GOD!

Jonathan Edwards put his understanding on the Gospel of the Glory of Christ to describe the Glory of Christ most compellingly in what may be his third-most famous Sermon- namely- "[*The Excellency of Christ*](#)," which I love. And the Beauty of Jesus in that Sermon is developed in a stunning way to show that, when the Christ did His Work, He wasn't merely enabling us to obtain something we had lost- but to *become*, in that Work, the very *Focus* of the Glory that we once thought we saw and now see in fullness.

So, here's Edward's description of the Glory of Jesus Christ- Who is in the Image of God- that we could not know without the Revelation of God in Christ. The Beauty is in what are seeming to be opposites. These are things that mingle in Jesus and thus constitute His incomparable Beauty:

- Infinite Highness and infinite Condescension
- Infinite Justice and infinite Grace
- Infinite Glory and lowest Humility
- Infinite Majesty and transcendent Meekness
- Deepest Reverence toward God and Equality with God
- Infinite Worthiness of Good and the greatest Patience under Sufferings of Evil

- An exceeding Spirit of Obedience with Supreme Dominion over Heaven and Earth
- Absolute Sovereignty and Perfect Resignation
- Self-sufficiency and an entire Trust and Reliance on God

Christ, the incarnate second Person of the Trinity, the Redeemer, is now the fullness of the Revelation of the Glory of God. He didn't just *repair* our ability to see something old. He became what God meant for us to see all along.

So, for example, when it says in **Psalm 16:11**:

You will make known to me the path of life; In Your presence is fullness of joy; In Your right hand there are pleasures forever.

... the Old Testament saints tasted that, and it was glorious. And yet, they didn't have a clue what the "fullness" meant. None of the OT saints knew the full meaning of that Promise: that at God's "Right Hand" are indescribable Pleasures- forever! It took the Incarnation and the New Testament Revelation to show that the Pleasures at God's "Right Hand" are the Pleasures that God the Father has in God the Son; and the Pleasures that God the Son has in God the Father.

And now He has come. And so, when we hear God the Father say,

"This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased" (Matthew 3:17).

... we should put into the phrase, "*well pleased*" billions of tons of Pleasure. O how we gloss over those words so quickly. "*This is My beloved Son, in whom I- God Almighty- with all of My infinite Energy — am totally pleased and have been totally pleased from all Eternity. And now- as you see Him- you can see what My Joy is! Now, as you gaze upon Jesus- you can see the Pleasures and the Joy that has been at My "Right Hand" throughout all Eternity!*" God's Pleasure; God's Delight; God's Joy- is Joy in His OWN Image that is in His Son!

So, what binds the children of God to their Father for Eternity is that we enjoy the Son of God; with the very Joy of God the Father. Jesus had already said in **John 15:11**:

These things I have spoken to you so that My joy may be in you, and *that* your

joy may be made full.

... and that is what Salvation is supposed to be all about. So now you not only have Jesus praying for the Love of the Father for the Son; to become our Love for the Son- but you also have Jesus saying,

“I have spoken to you so that My Joy *in My Father*- would be in you!

... there's simply no other way for our Joy to be “full” than for Jesus' Joy in God- to become *our Joy* in God!

So now we have *our Joy* in the Father; being the Son's Joy in the Father; and *our Joy* in the Son; being the Father's Joy in the Son. And we must have a new resurrection Body- or we would be eviscerated by that Experience. That is why we must have a new body. These Experiences are so great; so magnificent- that this

“flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God” (1Corinthians 15:50).

Now this passage doesn't mean you won't have a resurrected body- we will. It simply means that the body we have now- won't work. This body of sinful flesh will not work to enjoy that Experience forever.

So, Peter was all about Divine Truth. But he was also all about personal Experience with Jesus. And he talked about both of them. Peter was all about Salvation. But he was also all about the 2nd Coming. And he talked about both of them. And Peter was all about lost people being saved. But he was also all about saved people pressing on toward Holiness. Peter talked about all of this.

Now in what we have seen so far in **2Peter** (up through 1:11), the main point, from the old fisherman, has been to urge Christians to make sure that they are truly saved. Verse 10a says,

Therefore, brethren, be all the more diligent to make certain about His calling and choosing you...

Peter is aware of people who have made a *start* in the “life of Faith and Obedience to Jesus”- but who have then quit growing and drifted away into Destruction. For example, **2Peter 2:20** says,

For if, after they have escaped the defilements of the world by the knowledge of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, they are again entangled in them and are overcome, the last state has become worse for them than the first.

Now, before anyone passes out- let me re-enforce the fact of Scripture that Salvation is eternal. So, genuine believers in Jesus- will *never* lose their Salvation. And yet, Peter talks this way. And so, rather than pit one verse against another- let us labor diligently to join verses *together*- that *appear* to contradict one another- so that we may formulate what we are to believe about this Issue. And as we go through **2Peter**- I will do that.

But as to the Passage before us today- let me say that the Apostle Peter does not want what he talks about here- to happen to us. So, he tells us how to make sure that we are among God's elect who are "called to his own glory and excellence" (v. 3). And the "way" to *confirm* your Call and Election is to:

- Stand firm in your Faith
- And then *advance* in Virtue, Knowledge, Self-control, Perseverance; Godliness; Brotherly Kindness; and Love

These are the things that "certify" or "verify" the *genuineness* of your Faith; and confirm the Reality of your Conversion. And then Peter says,

2Peter 1:8&9

For if these *qualities* are yours and are increasing, they render you neither useless nor unfruitful in the true knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. For he who lacks these *qualities* is blind *or* short-sighted, having forgotten *his* purification from his former sins.

... and that's the main point so far: Confirm your Election by pressing on in all the Obedience of Faith.

But there is a subordinate Point- that's *just* as important as this one, which is:

2Peter 1:3b

... His divine power has granted to us everything pertaining to life and godliness...

... or a life OF Godliness.

So, all our efforts to press on to the Goal of Perfect Love are possible only because God has *already* given us the Power of His Spirit. But we must always keep in our minds this Truth:

We do not labor to earn God's Favor. We labor by the Power of His Favor which is working in us- to cause our labor

And, what's more, His Power always flows into us when we trust His precious and very great Promises (v. 4). Therefore, when the Power of God *enables* us to obey Jesus- it always does so "through Faith" in God's Promises. And that means that the Obedience, which Confirms our Election is the Obedience that comes from *Faith*. We do not secure our lives by trying to merit/earn/deserve the Grace of God through works of the Law. Not even good, "religious" works. No, we secure our lives by trusting in the gracious Promises so much that we desire nothing more than to love people the way God does.

1John 4:8

The one who does not love does not know God, for God is love.

Now, this morning- we will follow Peter's thought on through verse 19. So, let's walk through the Passage and apply it to our lives as we go. Verses 12–15:

12 Therefore, I will 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 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 will be able to call these things to mind.

Now I see at least four different steps in Peter's thinking here. But I

DON'T want to go over them in the order they come in the Passage. I want to go over them in their order from the most basic Observation up to the Conclusions he draws for his own action.

First, in verse 12, the Apostle observes that the things he is writing about are already known. Somehow his immediate readers were well-grounded and established in the Truth. And that may have been true because Peter himself had taught them well.

Now just before Peter denied Jesus three times, Jesus said to him (in **Luke 22:31&32**)

31 "Simon, Simon, behold, Satan has demanded *permission* to sift you like wheat;

32 but I have prayed for you, that your faith may not fail; and you, when once you have turned again, strengthen your brothers."

... so, here, Jesus is *guaranteeing* Peter three things:

- Satan WILL try/tempt/test Peter like wheat is sifted
- Because Jesus prayed for him- Peter's Faith WILL NOT *ultimately* fail (as Judas' did)
- When Peter "turns again" (repent) he WILL strengthen his spiritual brethren

Now as a side topic- please note that neither Jesus nor satan asked Peter's *permission* to do any of this. And, also, please note that Peter never *volunteered* for any of this- he was NOT *seeking* any of this. He isn't *asking* for any of this. Both satan and Jesus are *imposing* their wills on Peter; they are *interrupting* all of Peter's Plans; and they are *inserting* themselves into Peter's life- WITHOUT his cooperation. Another way of looking at this is to say that both Jesus and satan are VIOLATING Peter's will.

So, satan is asking God's Permission to sift Peter like wheat and, *evidently*, God gave it to him. And then Jesus is telling Peter what Peter WILL and WILL NOT do as a result of His Prayers and satan's sifting. But what I want you to notice this morning is that Jesus said,

... and you, when once you have turned again, strengthen your brothers.

... because the word, “**strengthen**” is the very SAME word (*steerizoo*; Strongs#4741) used here in **2Peter 1:12**- “**established**”. So, Peter fulfilled the Prophecy of Jesus back in **Luke 22:32** and he did indeed “strengthen” or “establish” his brothers.

So, if we consider ourselves at the Covenant of Peace Church to have become “strengthened” or “established” in the Truth of God’s Word- let us take heed. This Epistle is for us. It’s not for beginners.

Next, in verse 14, the Lord is almost ready to take Peter home.

knowing that the laying aside of my *earthly* dwelling is imminent, as also our Lord Jesus Christ has made clear to me.

... so, Peter’s death is very near. And history tells us that, around 64AD, the Romans took Peter; imprisoned him (with Paul); and later, he was taken out and led to a cross to be crucified. Yet, when seeing the cross- he begged the Roman soldiers to crucify him “upside down”; as he said he was not worthy to die like Jesus. And they obliged him and it took about four days for Peter to die- all the while he was preaching to the crowds who had gathered.

So, Peter says in verse 14 that Jesus had showed him very clearly that his death was very close at hand. And this has two clear and comforting implications for us whose Calling and Election are sure. It implies that when we die- we go *immediately* to be with the Lord. Peter said,

... the laying aside of my *earthly* dwelling is imminent ...

... and the words Peter uses here *imply* that the body is like a tent or a garment that can simply be “laid aside”; and that Death means we simply lay the garment aside for a while and leave. The Apostle Paul said in **2Corinthians 5:8**:

we are of good courage, I say, and prefer rather to be absent from the body and to be at home with the Lord.

We should all take courage as this old fleshly garment wears out. Because we will NOT go with it to corruption.

The second comforting implication of verse 14 is that the death of a believer is never “accidental” from God’s perspective. It is always planned.

You recall from **John 21:18&19a** how Jesus predicted the way Peter would die by crucifixion.

Truly, truly, I say to you, when you were younger, you used to gird yourself and walk wherever you wished; but when you grow old, you will stretch out your hands and someone else will gird you, and bring you where you do not wish to go. Now this He said, signifying by what kind of death he would glorify God.

So, here in verse 14- Peter says the Lord has told him when he will die. And it won't be long. Now the reason the Lord knows when and how Peter will die is because He is in control of the world. God could send an angel to let Peter escape when he is imprisoned in Rome. He did that in **The Acts 12:6-11**. But this time, Jesus is not going to do that. So, Peter will die. And he will die- crucified upside down- according to tradition.

But neither he, nor his precious friends who were reading this letter, nor we- should waver thinking that Evil has the upper hand. God *always* has the upper hand- even in the death of a saint. So, no matter how tragic the death of a believer seems to be to us- God has universal perspective and does all things well.

The third step now is in verse 13, that says:

I consider it right, as long as I am in this *earthly* dwelling, to stir you up by way of reminder,

Since the readers are already “established in the Truth”; and since Peter's time is short on earth- Peter thinks that the right thing to do is spend his remaining time arousing their memory of these things. If the Lord told you this afternoon that your time is short, what would you devote yourself to? Peter answers: *“I am going to devote myself to increasing the lively memory of Christian Truth.”* Peter was convinced that if he can keep the Greatness and Majesty of Christ's Work and Promises in the memory of believers- they will be awakened and aroused to *hope* in those Promises. And the response to that would be that they would be diligent to *grow* in Godliness- thus *confirming* their Calling and Election.

So, I hope you see the impact for us here at the Covenant of Peace Church. It means that even we, who *know* the Truth; and who have been *established* in that Truth- even we need *repeated* “Reminders” of the Truth's

Greatness- lest we fall asleep or forget (cf. v. 9). We must get out of our heads the notion that our Eternal Security is mechanical or automatic. Because it isn't.

God is faithful. And He has repeatedly promised that He will preserve His children from stumbling (**1Thessalonians 5:24; Romans 8:29**). Yet, God allows us to periodically sin against Him. Now He could have prevented us from sinning- but our Savior chose NOT to. And so, we conclude from that- that while it is NOT okay that we sin- God sovereignly allows us to periodically fall- so that He could keep us from stumbling- ULTIMATELY.

So, the way that a genuine believer sins- is NOT the way in which lost people sin. Our sins bring to us great Conviction; and heartfelt Repentance; and deep Humility- at the reality that we aren't nearly as strong as we, sometimes, think we are. And our moments of sinning help to refresh the Gospel in our own minds- which serves to keep us from fatally falling away.

And the way God works all this out- is personal and living and dynamic and involves real interaction between each believer and Jesus. And God uses "Reminders" to rouse us from the slumbers of Indifference and Apathy. And so, we prove the *genuineness* of our Salvation by *availing* ourselves of these Reminders; and by being stirred up; to add to our Faith- Virtue and Knowledge and Perseverance; and Godliness; and Brotherly Kindness; and Love.

We must recognize that Peter regards two things to be true about the believers he is writing to:

- They have already become established in the Truth
- They are people in great need of powerful Reminders

Dear friends, if we need one day a year to arouse and awaken us to the tremendous Value of our Fathers- whom we have seen- it is not surprising that we need *weekly*; or even *daily* Reminders that the Promises of God are *infinitely* more valuable than the dearest Father on this earth.

The fourth Step in Peter's thinking takes the third one just a bit further in verse 15.

And I will also be diligent that at any time after my departure you will be able to call these things to mind.

Since he thinks it right to devote the rest of his few months on earth to

the “Ministry of Reminding”- he resolves to leave behind a Letter (Epistle) that will *go on* reminding the Church of these things until Jesus comes back.

So, the reason a Christian should write a Last Will and Testament is to see to it that what he has accumulated and learned- will be put to use for Christ's Sake when he is gone. This Letter or Epistle of **2Peter**- is Peter's Last Will and Testament. It's as if he were *reliving* that day at the Temple Gate in Jerusalem when he said to the cripple,

The Acts 3:6b

... I do not possess silver and gold, but what I do have I give to you: In the name of Jesus Christ the Nazarene — walk!

... and now, just months before he will die- Peter still didn't have any silver to will to anyone. But what he *did* have- was *infinitely* more valuable. And what this man had in Christ- he wills to the Church: an authoritative Reminder of the precious and magnificent Promise that Christ is coming again.

I think if Peter could see us now, he would be delighted that his Letter was preserved in Scripture; and that almost 2,000 years later- he is still *reminding* and *arousing* the saints to *confirm* our Calling and Election.

So, I see four steps in verses 12–15:

- Peter is concerned about people who know the Truth and are established in it
- His days are numbered- according to God's Plan
- Established believers need repeated Reminders about how "precious and magnificent" God's Promises are
- Peter gives us this Letter as his Last Will and Testament

... so, Peter's bequest to the Christian Church is not money- but a Reminder of Christ's Power and His glorious Second Coming.

Then in verse 16, Peter tells us *why* this reminder is so weighty.

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.

In other words, the reason his reminder about the Precious and

Magnificent Promises of God (which are all summed up in Christ's Second Coming) the reason his word to us is so “weighty” and “vital”—is because it is NOT based on a myth- but on an eyewitness account of Christ's Majesty.

And there are three important Observations to make here. *First*, the word "**coming**" in verse 16 does NOT refer to Christ's FIRST Coming- but His *Second* Coming. The Greek word, *parousia* always refers to the 2nd Coming of Jesus- 18 different times throughout the New Testament and *never* to the 1st Coming. And this same word is used in **2Peter 3:4**; and **12**- where it *certainly* refers to the future Coming of Jesus. *Second*, both the Power and Coming of Jesus were part of Peter's earlier Teaching to these people. Verse 16 says he had already "made it known." So, this is not window dressing- it isn't “peripheral doctrine” tacked on at the end. This is “Essential Truth”; this is “Fundamental Christianity”. Jesus has all Power and Authority- and He's coming back to this earth! So, we are to prove that our Salvation is genuine by “putting on” these Attributes.

Now one of the marks of a Living, breathing, dynamic, Evangelical Faith- is that we reckon- seriously- earnestly- and joyfully- with the personal, visible Return of the God-Man Jesus Christ. The 2nd Coming of Jesus to this earth- is at the very core of our Faith. And our Belief and Trust and Confidence in the 2nd Coming should be the Faith of our heart. We should be *looking* for it- and *longing* for it.

The *third* Observation from verse 16 is that Confidence in Christ's future Coming in Power- is based on an eyewitness experience of Jesus' Majesty- and NOT on a myth. The great difference between “mythical Speculations” and the Christian Faith- is History. Our Doctrines are NOT the result of clever head-work. They are the result of the careful observation off Historical Facts. And this is why *Knowledge* plays such a crucial Role for Peter. Notice:

- **Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the *knowledge* of God (Verse 2)**
- **His divine power has granted to us ... through the true *knowledge*. (Verse 3)**
- **Applying all diligence in your faith... and in your moral excellence, *knowledge* (Verse 5)**
- **If these qualities are your and are increasing, they render you neither useless nor unfruitful in the true knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ (Verse 8)**

- **But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ (3:18)**

Full-blooded Christian Faith does not flourish in Ignorance. Cults flourish in Ignorance- but not Christianity. We value Truth. And we value ALL Truth. Therefore, Christians do NOT discount Science. We value whatever Truth Science finds. What we object to is not Truth- but “false Science”- what the Bible calls, “false Knowledge”.

1Timothy 6:20&21

O Timothy, guard what has been entrusted to you, avoiding worldly *and* empty chatter *and* the opposing arguments of what is falsely called "knowledge" — which some have professed and thus gone astray from the faith. Grace be with you.

Ultimately ALL Truth is God’s Truth- because God CANNOT lie. And because we love this God, Who CANNOT lie- we also love Truth- from *wherever* that Truth comes (Science or Scripture). So, whatever Knowledge you’re getting from “true Science” will NEVER cause you to stray from Christianity; or from your own Salvation; or from the Bible.

Throughout the 2,000 year history of the Church- there are two things have *always* followed in the wake of Christian Missions:

- Hospitals
- Schools

... which shows the connection between real, biblical Christianity and Education and Science. And Peter confirms that here. So, if our *own* Faith in Jesus is not grounded in reliable Observations of historical Reality- all that is left- is a "cleverly devised myth". And that makes whatever we believe and teach- to be *unworthy* of acceptance.

Then in verses 17 and 18 Peter tells us, in particular, what historical Event has given him such Confidence in Christ's Power and Second Coming, namely, his own, personal eyewitness Experience with James and John on the Mount of Transfiguration

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" — and we ourselves heard this utterance made from heaven when we were with Him on the holy mountain.

Now from the Gospel Records- we see that Jesus took Peter, James and John up with Him into the Mountain to pray. But while they were there- Jesus was transfigured before them in great Light and Glory. And then, from the overshadowing cloud, God spoke of His Son:

This is My Son, My Chosen One; listen to Him! (Luke 9:35)

... and so, in **2Peter 1:17&18**- Peter says, "*We were there! I heard God's Voice! I saw the Glory! And so, I now know with what Power and Glory and Authority Jesus will return!*" This eyewitness Experience of Jesus' Transfiguration was but a "preview" of the Glory of the 2nd Coming of Jesus Christ to this earth!

Now Peter *could* have told us how he saw Jesus after His Resurrection. And that would have been amazing. Or, he *could* have discussed how he stood on that mountain and watched Jesus ascend bodily up into Heaven. And that would have been amazing too. He *could* have talked about what it was like to walk on water with Jesus; or what it was like to have God the Holy Spirit "carry" him along to write infallible Scripture; or what it was like to experience the Divine healing Power that allowed a man, who was born without ankle bones- to walk and leap. Peter certainly had a number of experiences with Jesus, while He was on the earth.

But in *none* of those Events did Jesus appear in His *Majesty* as verse 16 says. And it is the Majesty and the Greatness of the 2nd Coming that Peter wants to remind us of in this Passage. So, Peter is not merely wanting us to experience some great emotional high. No, he wants believers to, very specifically, experience the Majesty and the Greatness of the Glory of the Return of Jesus Christ!

Recall that in verse 4 he refers to *precious* and magnificent Promises. And nearly thirty years after that Event happened- the Revelation of the Majesty of Christ fills the mind of Peter with awe. And so, he wants, more than anything else, to share the Hope of that vision with us before he dies.

And so, in verse 19- the old fisherman emphasizes again that the Word about Christ's coming is "Sure"; it is "Certain" or "Guaranteed". It is NOT merely a belief that we are to accept and trust in- but rather a fact that

WILL come to pass. And then Peter calls us to “give heed” to it until the end.

2Peter 1:19a

So we have the prophetic word *made* more sure, to which you do well to pay attention...

Here, Peter calls the Word of Christ's 2nd Coming a "**Prophetic Word**" because the glorious Coming of the Messiah is predicted in the Old Testament Prophets (e.g., **Malachi 4:2; Isaiah 60:1**, etc.). And he speaks of it as being "**more sure**" now- because it has been *confirmed* on the Mount of Transfiguration in an eyewitness preview of its ultimate Fulfillment.

And so, in the *last half* of verse 19 Peter- returns to his Admonition in verses 12–15.

Therefore, I will 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. I consider it right, as long as I am in this *earthly* dwelling, to stir you up by way of reminder, knowing that the laying aside of my *earthly* dwelling is imminent, as also our Lord Jesus Christ has made clear to me. And I will also be diligent that at any time after my departure you will be able to call these things to mind.

The point here is that, periodically, all Christians need to be reminded of the precious and magnificent Promises. But in verse 19, the point is that all Christians also need to pay attention to the Old Testament prophecies- the “Prophetic Word”- about the 2nd Coming.

And, after the completion of the New Testament- we have even *more* clear; and *more* certain “prophecies” concerning the 2nd Coming that we are to know and understand and take to heart.

And, at the end of verse 19- Peter uses a picture to show us the *urgency* of his Admonition to remember. Peter is alluding to the fact that, during his time on earth- things are spiritually dark. So, it's “night- time”- *spiritually*. And the whole world is covered with the “darkness” of Sin and Deceit and Fear and Greed and Unbelief. In **Colossians 1:13**, the Apostle Paul referred to it as a “**Domain of Darkness**”. And everyone who inhabits this “Domain of Darkness” is in danger of stumbling over some unexpected temptation or falsehood. Our only Hope to survive the night is to have a

Lamp going before us. And in verse 19, Peter says that the “Prophetic Word” about the Promise of Christ's 2nd Coming, is that Lamp. And so, the Apostle pleads with us:

Keep your eyes on the Lamp; Don't fall asleep; Don't become weary of well-doing;
Don't become too comfortable here on this earth; Don't turn away after some
bewitching song in the night.

The Hope that is *created* and that is *sustained* through the Knowledge that Jesus is coming back- is very powerful to fight off Temptations and Discouragement. And so, in that sense- the 2nd Coming of Jesus Christ- acts as a Lamp to our feet; and a Light to our path- as we navigate through a very dark world.

So, hoping and believing in the great and magnificent Promises of God- acts like a carrot on a stick (or even a hot fudge sundae) that will draw us into Paths of Righteousness- which will transform into Eternal Life. But then we can change the image and let Peter say the same thing. Hang in front of you the Lamp of the Promise of Christ's glorious Return to this earth- and let that Knowledge guide you through the night- away from every Temptation to sin- until we reach the dawn. Or as Peter said,

2Peter 1:19b

... [pay close attention to the Prophecies about Christ's 2nd Coming- the “prophetic Word”] **as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star arises in your hearts.**

So, Peter is teaching us that *focusing* on what the Bible teaches about the 2nd Coming- will cause us to become more godly and holy. Or as the Apostle John put it in **1John 3:2&3**

Beloved, now we are children of God, and it has not appeared as yet what we will be. We know that when He appears [Christ's 2nd Coming], we will be like Him, because we will see Him just as He is. And everyone who has this hope *fixed* on Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.

John says here that every believer, (who has the Hope that when Jesus comes back- we will be like Him because we will see Him as He really is)- *responds* to that Hope by *purifying himself* to the *same* degree that Jesus is Pure. And that is *exactly* what Peter is teaching in verse 19:

Hoping and trusting in the “Prophetic Word” (that was made “more sure” because of the eyewitness account of the Transfiguration) will act like a Lamp that will guide us through the darkness of this fallen world- until we reach the Dawn of the actual Return of Jesus.

So, the Power of God- manifested to us- that will produce godliness in our lives- flows through us hoping and trusting and believing in God’s Promises. But just what is the “Hope” that draws us on to walk in the Light as Jesus is the Light? Two things:

- Dawn *outside* of us
- Daystar *inside* of us

The Lamp will shine

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

... in other words, His Glory shall appear and cover the earth like the waters cover the sea. And we shall be like Him. In **The Revelation 22:16**, Jesus says,

"I am... the bright morning star."

... and in **The Revelation 2:26&28**, He promises,
"He who overcomes and he who keeps My deeds until the end ... I will give him the morning star."

So, the Light will rise over the world; and the Light will arise in our hearts. And there will be Glory *without*, and Glory *within*. **Romans 8:19** says,
For the anxious longing of the creation waits eagerly for the revealing of the sons of God.

In the Parable of the “Tares and the Wheat”, Jesus said,

Matthew 13:37-43

**37 ... "The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man,
38 and the field is the world; and *as for* the good seed, these are the sons of the kingdom; and the tares are the sons of the evil *one*;
39 and the enemy who sowed them is the devil, and the harvest is the end of the**

age; and the reapers are angels.

40 "So just as the tares are gathered up and burned with fire, so shall it be at the end of the age.

41 "The Son of Man will send forth His angels, and they will gather out of His kingdom all stumbling blocks, and those who commit lawlessness,

42 and will throw them into the furnace of fire; in that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

43 "Then *THE RIGHTEOUS WILL SHINE FORTH AS THE SUN* in the kingdom of their Father. He who has ears, let him hear.

... and if these things are so, what manner of persons ought we to be in all Hope and Joy and Godliness!

Amen. Let's pray.

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The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. Amen. Be watchful and quicken your pace. Soli Deo Gloria. For the Glory of God alone.