Wake Up and Remember (2 Peter 1:12-21)

- **Introduction:** The best defense against false teaching is true living. A church filled with growing Christians is not likely to fall to false teaching. A Christian who knows what he or she believes and why will rarely be seduced by the false teachers and their doctrine. Peter underscores the dependability and durability of the Scriptures by contrasting the Word of God with men, experiences and the world.

I. **Men Die, But The Word of God Lives (2 Peter 1:12-15) --** For this reason I will not be negligent to remind you always of these things, though you know and are established in the present truth. Yes, I think it is right, as long as I am in this tent, to stir you up by reminding you, knowing that shortly I must put off my tent, just as our Lord Jesus Christ showed me. Moreover I will be careful to ensure that you always have a reminder of these things after my decease.

A. There are at least three motives behind Peter's ministry as he wrote this epistle.
   2. **It was the right thing to do.** It is always right to remind the saints about the Word of God.
   3. His third motive is wrapped up in the word “endeavor.” (“ensure in NKJV). 2 Peter 1:15. It means to hasten to do something, to be zealous in doing it. Peter knew he would soon die and wanted to fulfill his spiritual responsibilities.

B. What did he want to accomplish?
   1. **“Remembrance.”** He wanted to impress his reader’s minds with the word of God so that they would never forget it.
   2. We can depend on the written Word of God. “It is written.” And “It stands forever.” We can be saved through this living Word, nurtured by it, and guided as we “trust and obey…”

II. **Experiences fade, But the Word Remains.** (2 Peter 1:16-18) For we did not follow cunningly devised fables when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of His majesty. For He received from God the Father honor and glory when such a voice came to Him from the Excellent Glory: “This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.” And we heard this voice which came from heaven when we were with Him on the holy mountain.

A. The focus on this paragraph is on the Transfiguration of the Lord Jesus.
B. What was the significance of the Transfiguration.
   1. It confirmed Peter’s testimony about Jesus.
   2. Peter could testify on reality not hearsay.
C. By reminding his readers of the Transfiguration, Peter affirmed several important doctrines of the Christian faith.
1. That Jesus was indeed the Son of God.
2. It was also an affirmation of the Truth of the Scriptures. Those who question the truth and authority of the Word are questioning Jesus Himself.
3. It affirmed the reality of God’s Kingdom.

- We have learned two important truths as we have seen these contrasts: men die—the Word lives and experiences fade—but the Word remains.

III. The World Darkens But the Word Shines. (1 Peter 1:19-21) And so we have the prophetic word confirmed, which you do well to heed as a light that shines in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts; knowing this first, that no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation, for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit.

A. Peter made three affirmations about the Word of God.

1. It is the Sure Word (1 Peter 1:19a) We can depend upon the word of God. When God’s makes a promise, He will keep it. We must trust the reliability of the Holy Scriptures.
2. It is the Shining Word. God is Light and His Word is light. Psalm 110:105 “Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.” As believers we must heed the Word and govern our lives by what it says. As the world gets darker and darker, we must look to the Light. We have been called out of darkness into a marvelous light and we must share this Light with the lost.
3. It is the Spirit-Given Word. (I Peter 1:20-21) This along with 2 Tim. 3:16-16 and other passages attest to the inspiration of the Word of God.

- Until the day dawns, we must be sure that the love of His coming is like a shining star in our hearts (1 Peter 1:19). Unless we love His appearing we will not look for His appearing; and it is the Word of God that keeps that expectation bright.
- Conclusion: Men die, the Word lives. Experiences fade, but the Word remains. The World grows darker, but the Word shines brighter.

A. The believer who builds his life on the Word of God and looks for the coming of the Savior is not likely to be led astray by false teachers. He will be taught by the Spirit and grounded in the sure Word of God.

B. Peter’s message is: “Wake Up—And Remember!” A sleeping church is the devil’s playground. It was while the men slept that the enemy came in and sowed the tares. “Be Alert!” is the Apostle’s message. “Wake Up And Remember!”