

Nourish Your Mind on the Truth

2 Peter 1:12-21

Main Idea: In chapter one of 2 Peter, Peter tells us how to fortify ourselves against false teaching. In the previous section (1:5-11) he told us we do this through character development. In this section (1:12-21) he says we do it by strengthening our grip on the truth. This morning we'll talk about nourishing our minds so that we can confront false teaching, and we do it in three ways.

1. RETURN TO THE BASICS – To nourish your mind against false teaching, strengthen your grip on the essentials of your faith. 2 Peter 1:12-15

- A. First claim: Christians *possess* the truth. The Greek phrase is “present truth.” 1:12c
 - 1. Peter is conscious of a growing New Testament canon on par with the Old.
 - 2. As a Christian you possess not just “a” truth, but “the” truth.
 - 3. We must be bold with this, yet extremely gracious.
- B. Second claim: Christians are *established* in the truth. 1:12b
 - 1. Christianity is not just an intellectual body of knowledge like so much false teaching.
 - 2. When you come to Christ, his truth makes dramatic changes on the inside.
- C. Third claim: We need constant *reminders* about the truth. 1:12a, 13b
 - 1. Notice how seriously Peter takes this. He uses the term *diligent* and *stir up*.
 - 2. Leaders need to make these reminders because false teaching can look so attractive.
- D. Fourth claim: Peter feels an urgency to do this in light of his death. 1:12a, 13, 15
 - 1. Leaders understand the principle of spiritual entropy. Joshua 24:31; Judges 2:7-10
 - 2. Peter had a proper view on life (tenting) and knew his death was immanent. John 21:18
- E. Challenge: Guard your attitude toward the basics.
 - 1. The basics of the faith consist of core doctrines impacting salvation and spiritual growth.
 - 2. Some Christians bored by the basics, and they become vulnerable to false teaching.
 - 3. Some are humbled by the basics, and strive to grow deep in them.

2. REMEMBER JESUS – To nourish your mind against false teaching, remember the preeminence of Jesus. 2 Peter 1:16-19

- A. False teaching always reduces the preeminence of Jesus in some way.
- B. Jesus gave his disciples (and us) a clear picture of himself at the transfiguration.
 - 1. They caught a picture of Jesus’ future Messianic kingdom. 1:16b
 - 2. They saw the preeminence of Jesus as God. (glory; utterance) 1:17
 - 3. They got a preview of glorification in the appearance of Moses and Elijah.
 - 4. They caught a glimpse of Jesus’ present power as well. Luke 17:20-21
- C. Jesus self-expression is dramatically different from the false teachers.
 - 1. Jesus performs real miracles in space-time history (the transfig. & resurr. for ex.). 1:16c, 18
 - 2. False teachers make mystical claims that cannot be tested. “Cleverly devised tales.” 1:16a

3. RELY ON HIS WORD – To nourish your mind against false teaching, rely on God’s word. 2 Peter 1:20-21

- A. 1st principle – God always works to confirm his word. 1:19a
- B. 2nd principle – God’s word must be properly interpreted. 1:20
- C. 3rd principle – God’s word comes from him. 1:21