

2 Peter 1:12

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Wherefore I will not be negligent to put you always in remembrance of these things, though ye know them, and be established in the present truth.

Analysis

Wherefore I will not be negligent to put you always in remembrance of these things, though ye know them, and be established in the present truth. Peter transitions to explaining his purpose in writing. "Wherefore" (dio, διό) connects to the previous verses—because abundant entrance comes through godliness (v. 11), Peter commits to constant reminder. "I will not be negligent" (ouk amelēsō, οὐκ ἀμελήσω) means "I will not fail" or "I will be diligent"—matching the diligence he calls readers to exercise (vv. 5, 10).

"Put you always in remembrance" (aei hymas hypomimnēskein, ἀεὶ ὑμᾶς ὑπομιμνήσκειν) reveals apostolic ministry's core function: reminding believers of foundational truths, not endlessly pursuing novelty. "Though ye know them" (kaiper eidotas) acknowledges they possess this knowledge, and "be established" (estērigmenous, ἐστηριγμένους, perfect participle) indicates settled conviction in "the present truth" (tē parousē alētheia, τῇ παρούσῃ ἀληθείᾳ).

"Present truth" doesn't mean truth that changes over time but truth presently with them—the gospel and apostolic teaching they've received. Peter emphasizes repetition's necessity even for those who know and are established in truth. Why? Because human nature tends toward forgetfulness (v. 9), false teaching constantly threatens (chapter 2), and spiritual vigilance requires continual reinforcement. Faithful ministry involves patient, repeated proclamation of unchanging truth, resisting pressure to innovate or entertain.

Historical Context

In the ancient world, teachers served as memory aids, repeatedly rehearsing foundational knowledge to embed it deeply. Judaism emphasized memorization and recitation of Torah and tradition. Greco-Roman rhetoric valued memory and eloquent restatement of established wisdom. Peter stands in this tradition while Christianizing it—his «present truth» is apostolic testimony to Christ, which must be constantly reaffirmed against innovation and forgetfulness.

The emphasis on remembrance counters the false teachers' claim to new, superior knowledge. Peter insists the truth has already been delivered; the task isn't discovering novel insights but faithfully maintaining apostolic teaching. This became foundational for the early church's understanding of orthodoxy—faithfulness to the apostolic deposit (2 Tim 1:13-14; Jude 3) rather than speculative innovation. Against Gnostic claims to secret, progressive revelation, the church affirmed the sufficiency and finality of apostolic witness.

Related Passages

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Study Questions

1. How do you balance pursuing depth in familiar biblical truth versus breadth in covering new material?
2. What foundational truths do you most need repeated reinforcement to remember and apply?
3. How can churches resist cultural pressure for novelty while remaining faithful to repetitive proclamation of unchanging truth?

Interlinear Text

Διὸ οὐκ ἀμελήσω ὑμᾶς ἀεὶ ὑπομιμήσκειν περὶ^{τὴν}
Wherefore not I will you always in remembrance of
G1352 G3756 G272 G5209 G104 G5279 G4012

τούτων καίπερ εἰδότας καὶ ἐστηριγμένους ἐν τῇ^{τὴν}
these things though ye know them and be established in G3588
G5130 G2539 G1492 G2532 G4741 G1722

παρούσῃ ἀληθείᾳ
the present truth
G3918 G225

Additional Cross-References

1 John 2:21 (Truth): I have not written unto you because ye know not the truth, but because ye know it, and that no lie is of the truth.

Philippians 3:1 (Parallel theme): Finally, my brethren, rejoice in the Lord. To write the same things to you, to me indeed is not grievous, but for you it is safe.

Colossians 2:7 (Parallel theme): Rooted and built up in him, and stablished in the faith, as ye have been taught, abounding therein with thanksgiving.

Jude 1:5 (Parallel theme): I will therefore put you in remembrance, though ye once knew this, how that the Lord, having saved the people out of the land of Egypt, afterward destroyed them that believed not.

2 John 1:2 (Truth): For the truth's sake, which dwelleth in us, and shall be with us for ever.

2 Peter 1:13 (Parallel theme): Yea, I think it meet, as long as I am in this tabernacle, to stir you up by putting you in remembrance;

Hebrews 13:9 (Parallel theme): Be not carried about with divers and strange doctrines. For it is a good thing that the heart be established with grace; not with meats, which have not profited them that have been occupied therein.

2 Peter 3:17 (Parallel theme): Ye therefore, beloved, seeing ye know these things before, beware lest ye also, being led away with the error of the wicked, fall from your own stedfastness.

2 Peter 1:15 (Parallel theme): Moreover I will endeavour that ye may be able after my decease to have these things always in remembrance.

2 Peter 3:1 (Parallel theme): This second epistle, beloved, I now write unto you; in both which I stir up your pure minds by way of remembrance:

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