

2 Peter 3:1

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

This second epistle, beloved, I now write unto you; in both which I stir up your pure minds by way of remembrance:

Analysis

This second epistle, beloved, I now write unto you; in both which I stir up your pure minds by way of remembrance. Peter identifies this as his "second epistle" (deuteran hymin graphō epistolēn, δευτέραν ὑμῖν γράφω ἐπιστολήν), referencing 1 Peter written to the same general audience—believers in Asia Minor. The affectionate address "beloved" (agapētoi, ἀγαπητοί) appears frequently in this letter (3:1, 8, 14, 17), contrasting the warm pastoral tone with stern warnings against false teachers.

His purpose in both letters: "I stir up your pure minds by way of remembrance" (diegeirō hymōn en hypomnēsei tēn eilikrinē dianoian, διεγείρω ὑμῶν ἐν ὑπομνήσει τὴν εἰλικρινῇ διάνοιαν). "Stir up" (diegeirō) means "arouse" or "awaken"—active stimulation of spiritual alertness. "Pure minds" (eilikrinē dianoian, εἰλικρινῇ διάνοιαν) denotes sincere, unmixed thinking—minds uncorrupted by false teaching, devoted solely to truth.

"By way of remembrance" (en hypomnēsei) again emphasizes memory's importance (1:12-13, 15). Peter doesn't introduce novelty but reminds of established truth. Faithful ministry involves constant rehearsal of foundational truths, counteracting human tendency toward forgetfulness and drift. This pastoral emphasis on reminder guards against both innovation (claiming new revelation) and neglect (forgetting core truths).

Historical Context

The identification as "second epistle" provides important canonical evidence. Early church debated 2 Peter's authorship due to stylistic differences from 1 Peter and late attestation in patristic writings. However, internal claims to Petrine authorship (1:1, 14, 16-18) and early acceptance in some regions eventually led to canonical recognition. The reference to 1 Peter helps establish literary unity despite stylistic variation, likely due to different secretarial assistance (1 Peter possibly through Silvanus, 1 Pet 5:12).

Both Petrine epistles address suffering and false teaching but with different emphases. 1 Peter focuses on enduring external persecution with hope; 2 Peter addresses internal doctrinal corruption with warning. Together they provide comprehensive pastoral guidance for churches under pressure—how to suffer faithfully and how to discern truth from error. Peter's ministry model of repeated reminder parallels Paul's approach (Phil 3:1; 2 Tim 2:14) and Jesus' teaching method, recognizing that people need truth reinforced repeatedly.

Related Passages

1 John 4:8 — God is love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. How do you balance pursuing depth in familiar biblical truth versus breadth in covering new material?
2. What practices help keep your mind 'pure' from corrupt thinking and focused on apostolic truth?
3. How can churches resist cultural pressure for novelty while faithfully repeating core biblical teaching?

Interlinear Text

Ταύτην G3778	ἤδη now G2235	ἀγαπητοί beloved G27	δευτέραν second G1208	ὑμῖν unto you G5213	γράφω I G1125	ἐπιστολήν epistle G1992
ἐν by way G1722	αἷς both which G3739	διεγείρω I stir up G1326	ὑμῶν your G5216	ἐν by way G1722	ὑπομνήσει of remembrance G5280	τὴν G3588
εἰλικρινῇ pure G1506	διάνοιαν minds G1271					

Additional Cross-References

2 Timothy 1:6 (Parallel theme): Wherefore I put thee in remembrance that thou stir up the gift of God, which is in thee by the putting on of my hands.
