

2PeterWeek12 “Reminders to Leave a Legacy” 2 Peter 1:12-15
Community Group Questions

1. Do you...

Read the Word? Read Christian books? Listen to Christian music?
Make church a priority?

2. What do people learn from your life?

3. What will you be remembered for?

In the winter of 1993 I went on a winter retreat “snow camp” tell story

Have you ever observed someone who suffered from memory loss, maybe you dealt with or are dealing with someone who has Alzheimer’s or temporary Amnesia. It can be very sad and frustrating. Maybe it is you, you suffer from some sort of memory loss?

I think we all have times in which we forget things especially when it comes to how Jesus wants us to live.

Today from 2 Peter 1:12-15 we will learn that we need constant reminders so that we can leave a Godly legacy.

We need constant reminders vrs 12-13

Notice in verses 12 he states “you know this” and are “established in the truth”

And then in verse 13 he says he “thinks its right” to continue to remind them.

So as a pastor the way I look at this passage is here is Peter the pastor looking at the Christians in the church and saying...I realize you know the truth but it is my job to make sure you continue to know the truth.

The English Author of the 1700's Samuel Johnson said "Men more frequently require to be reminded than informed."

So obviously each week or anytime we meet it is my calling to remind you of the truth...

Obviously we have truth in the GOSPEL but what other truth do we need reminders of? That following Jesus is the best way. We call it Christian living...This is the basis for our sermons each week. But what are some ...

Practical ways we can continue to remind ourselves...

-The Word, study, reading, listening, podcasts, memorizing. Resource link on our website.

-Christian books, sometimes we need a different angle that makes us think differently and many times reading what another person does or is thinking about, inspires us.

-Pilgrim's Progress (classic)

-Biographies and Auto Biographies of notable Christians

-Christian living

-Theological books

These will all remind you how to follow Jesus

-Christian music.

Music is important to God and we know this because of the Poetic books in the OT. Many of the Psalms were set to music. Why?

Studies show that music..

-Affects our mood. Think about how different types of music change or dictate your mood.

-Brings up memories. This one is great because based on a song we can recall many different times in life or people or things that we were doing.

-Improves creativity

-Improves our reasoning and motor skills *A recent study found that children who had three years or more musical instrument training performed better than those who didn't learn an instrument in auditory discrimination abilities and fine motor skills.*

-Helps us with motivation- that is why most exercise videos are set to music.

Why is this important for us as Christians? When we listen to or sing music about Jesus it enriches our life of faith, reminds us of the truths we believe and often reminds of different times in our lives.

The final way we remind ourselves of the truth of Jesus is...

-Church-I know you are here now but in your life of faith you may have seasons in which you neglect attending worship.

Did you know that in the OT the Israelites were commanded to keep the Sabbath holy? Do you know why? It was so they would come together and weekly be reminded that they were once slaves in Egypt and God delivered them out of slavery.

Sound familiar? Doesn't worship do the same for us...we were once in slavery to sin but Jesus saved or delivered us from that slavery.

At church we worship, fellowship, serve, learn. Any Christian that does not take commitment to weekly gathering seriously is not as committed as they think they are. I have had people say to me *"so and so is a really committed Christian they just don't go to church"* my response is *"I would challenge their commitment"* some may say that is harsh or why would you challenge it?

I say it is inconsistent with the teachings of Jesus because we are forsaking His bride...

Here is the problem there are two types of Christians that do not make going to church a priority...the very uncommitted and the ones that have a deep rooted sin issue.

Uncommitted- these people may be the type of people that struggle with commitment in almost every area of life and weekly worship is no different.

On the other hand these can also be the people that don't have a commitment issue, they show they can be committed by being committed to other things which take away from their commitment to the Lord.

Regardless they are just uncommitted to the Lord...Is that you? What will it take for you to be more committed? Something good happening? Something bad happening? Maybe for you it will just be "hey my pastor just challenged me"

The second group are the people that have a...

Deep rooted sin issue. Here is what I have observed time and again when it comes to the deep rooted sin issue.

*-Full of pride...*that church is not good enough for me...messages, music, programs, people are not perfect. They are Critics, complainers and for lack of better terms...a pain in the neck. Not only in the neck of the church but most of the people around them as well and I would argue they are a pain in their own neck because they are never content.

*-Full of shame...*this is the person that is afraid to allow other Christians to get close to them because then they will find out who they really are. A sinful lifestyle or a habitual sin...this person often struggles in most social interactions it may not just be attending church. They have allowed Satan to win and make them feel that they

are not worthy of being with God's people or they have believe the lie that you have to be good person to go to church.

-Full of Brokenness... This is a person that has been hurt before by Christians and does not want to be hurt again. Or they are mad at God for what has happened in their life.

I will say this and some of you will not like it but 100% of the time if someone is not committed to weekly worship...it shows there is problem.

That is why the call, email or Facebook message you get from me if you have been out of fellowship is..."is everything ok?"

If you fall into the trap of not coming to church realize this...the benefits when you follow after the Biblical command to not forsake the gathering of believers, The reminder each week that we are sending to ourselves is...I need this because I am not perfect...I need this because I have a tendency to do the wrong thing without a weekly reminder...I need this because other people need me, I need this because God said I do, and finally I need this because it is a reminder that I am part of something much bigger...the Body of Christ.

If you have children you are doing them a great disservice if church on Sunday is optional. Which brings us to our next two verses which forces us to ask this question... What type of Christian Legacy are you leaving?

We should leave a **Godly legacy** Vrs 14-15 Peter is saying I am eventually going to die and I want you to remember what I taught and how I lived.

What type of Christian Legacy are you leaving?

In order to answer that question we need ask ourselves another question.

Who are you leaving a legacy for? Spouse, Children, grandchildren, church(fellow Christians), friends, co-workers

When we talk legacy we are talking about two things...

-What people learn from our lives... People learn from the things we do.

-What will remember about our lives? What will your eulogy be?

As a pastor that has spoken the eulogy of more funerals then I would like this one is important to me. Please give me some great material



Just to put this into perspective I want to share with you what...

Shannon L. Alder, author and therapist that has 17 years of experience working with hospice patients

“Top 10 Deathbed Regrets:

1. I wish I'd had the courage to live a life true to myself, not the life other people expected of me.

2. I wish I took time to be with my children more when they were growing up.

3. I wish I had the courage to express my feelings, without the fear of being rejected or unpopular.

4. I wish I would have stayed in touch with friends and family.

5. I wish I would have forgiven someone when I had the chance.

6. I wish I would have told the people I loved the most how important they are to me.

7. I wish I would have had more confidence and tried more things, instead of being afraid of looking like a fool.

8. I wish I would have done more to make an impact in this world.

9. I wish I would have experienced more, instead of settling for a boring life filled with routine, mediocrity and apathy.

10. I wish I would have pursued my talents and gifts.

We will not have these regrets when we are constantly reminded of the truth we should live by then we will leave a Godly legacy.