

2 PETER

E V E R Y E F F O R T

2 PETER / MAKE EVERY EFFORT

The Apostle Peter, knowing the end of his life is near as he faces his execution, writes with fervor to encourage the church to persevere in the midst of persecution and to walk as faithful followers of Jesus in the midst of exile. He wants them to know that, even as he and the other original apostles leave this world, God has given the church all that they need to live Godly lives in the midst of a world that is pushing them to the margins. We face the same kind of exile today, even if it doesn't look exactly the same. Peter's words hit home for us as we seek to be faithful disciples of Jesus in the midst of a hostile and opposing culture.

Part 3: Every Effort to Know Your Bible

Read the text: 2 Peter 1:12-21

Therefore I intend always to remind you of these qualities, though you know them and are established in the truth that you have. I think it right, as long as I am in this body, to stir you up by way of reminder, since I know that the putting off of my body will be soon, as our Lord Jesus Christ made clear to me. And I will make every effort so that after my departure you may be able at any time to recall these things.

For we did not follow cleverly devised myths when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses of his majesty. For when he received honor and glory from God the Father, and the voice was borne to him by the Majestic Glory, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I

am well pleased,” we ourselves heard this very voice borne from heaven, for we were with him on the holy mountain. And we have the prophetic word more fully confirmed, to which you will do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts, knowing this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture comes from someone's own interpretation. For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.

As Peter writes his final letter to the church, he wants to “wake them up” to remember what is REALLY real. It’s so easy to be lulled to sleep and live as if this current world is all there is. Peter writes to remind them that this temporary life will give way to a permanent and eternal reality and calls them to live in light of that. To remind them of this reality, he gives two lines of evidence: 1) His experience seeing Jesus’ divine glory and identity revealed during His transfiguration and 2) the Scriptures written by men and inspired by the Holy Spirit.

Discussion Questions:

These questions are written for DNA groups, but you can use them in any setting, including missional communities. Because they were written for the intimacy of DNA friendships, you may need to adjust for larger groups.

1. Crisis and times of significant change often prompt us to refocus on what really matters. As you’ve experienced the last 18 months of change, what has come into focus for you?
2. What are ways you have been “lulled to sleep” and begun to live as if this current world is all there is? What does that tangibly look like in your life and story?
3. Do you ever have doubts about the certainty of the Gospel or the trustworthiness of Scripture? (FYI...It’s okay to have

doubts and be honest about those doubts!) How might Peter's words be helpful to you?

4. How would you live differently if you viewed this current life as a short beginning to the eternal reality to which you've been called? Try to be tangible and specific...what would look different about your life if this current life was not all there was?
5. If the written Scriptures are the ultimate reality and give us hope, we must make every effort to know them and be grounded in them; especially in a world where we're bombarded 24/7 by information. What does "knowing and being grounded in the Scriptures" look like in your life right now? What is one tangible way you'd like to grow in that? What next step can you take?