

1. **Introduction:** Peter has described God’s great gift of salvation consisting of a combination of immediately manifest benefits and latent qualities to be made manifest at later times.
 - He underlined the importance of making qualities manifest and developing them in verses 8-10, *“For if you possess these qualities in increasing measure, they will keep you from being ineffective and unproductive in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹ But whoever does not have them is nearsighted and blind, forgetting that they have been cleansed from their past sins. ¹⁰ “Therefore ... make every effort to confirm your calling and election.”*
 - Possessing and increasingly practicing the qualities immediately manifest and those made manifest later is so important that Peter will always remind his readers of the qualities.
2. **2 Peter 1:12-15:** *Therefore I intend always to remind you of these qualities, though you know them and are established in the truth that you have. ¹³ I think it right, as long as I am in this body, to stir you up by way of reminder, ¹⁴ since I know that the putting off of my body will be soon, as our Lord Jesus Christ made clear to me. ¹⁵ And I will make every effort so that after my departure you may be able at any time to recall these things.*
 - Paul reminds believers in Philippians 2:12 that they have an obligation to work to make manifest the latent qualities of God’s salvation gift because God continues to work in them.
3. **Philippians 2:12:** *“... work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, ¹³ for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure.*
 - Reaching the goal of agape love is only possible because God has already given manifest and latent qualities that are to be developed working in coordination with the Holy Spirit.
 - Our work is not to earn God’s favor. We can work because He has given us the power to participate in the work that He has prepared for us to do as we cooperate with the Spirit.
 - God’s power supports us as we trust His precious, very great promises. When the power of God enables us to obey Christ our Lord, it operates through our faith in God’s promises.
 - God is who He says He is, has done what He says He has done, and will do what He says He will do. He has given us faith to believe and power to live in a manner that pleases Him.
 - To love God is to obey Him. John 14:15 says, if we love God, we will obey Him.
 - John 14:23 says, if we don’t obey Him, we don’t love Him.
 - 1 John 4:8 says, if we don’t love, we don’t know God who is love.
 - In verse 1:12 Peter says the things he is writing to them are things they already know.
 - Though established in the truth, they will benefit from reminders. Jesus said to Peter just before Peter denied Jesus three times, *“when you have turned again, strengthen your brothers.”* Peter is busy doing exactly that.

- In 1:13 Peter wishes to implant in his readers memory the need for making manifest the latent qualities that were God’s gift when He gave them faith to believe. It is a constant refrain in Scripture that believers should “remember” what God has done and be faithful to properly use what God has provided.
 - It is a common human failing to forget the source of “good things” and promises we made when we received them whether from God or from other people. We need memory, judgement, and reminders to make manifest what God has provided in latent form as well as to use that which is already manifest.
 - In 2:14 Peter says that the Lord has revealed to him that his mortal death is near.
4. **2 Peter 1:14: *I know that the putting off of my body will be soon, as our Lord Jesus Christ made clear to me.***
- Peter will be crucified upside down at the appointed time. Regardless of how tragic a believer’s death seems to us, it is according to the plan of our God who does all things well.
 - In verse 1:15 Peter resolves that he will make every effort to write in a way that, when he is gone, what he writes will keep on reminding the church of the necessity of making manifest any latent quality they have not yet made manifest.
 - In these verses (1:12-15) Peter is obviously concerned about the well-being of people who already know the truth and have received God’s gift of attributes, both those manifest and those to be made manifest step-by-step in the future.
 - Peter knows he is near the end of his life on earth according to God’s plan. Even established believers need repeated reminders their salvation and God’s great and precious promises.
 - As perhaps his last gift to the church, he leaves to them this letter that will remind them of the power of Jesus Christ and His glorious second coming.
5. **2 Peter 1:16-18: *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.*¹⁷ *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,”*¹⁸ *we ourselves heard this very voice borne from heaven, for we were with him on the holy mountain.***
- Verse 16 gives the reason why repeated reminders are of such great importance. Peter says, what I am telling you is backed up by eyewitness accounts. ***“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.”***
 - Peter could have said that he and others walked with Jesus during His earthly ministry, were with Him in Gethsemane, saw Him die on the cross, saw Him alive repeatedly after His resurrection, and watched Him ascend into heaven.
 - Why emphasize the transfiguration experience? Because, in no other experience with Him, did Jesus appear in stunning **majesty** as He did on the Mount of Transfiguration. Jesus’ divine nature was clear in the transfiguration.

- The Greek word translated as “coming” in verse 16 is *Parousia* and refers to Christ’s second coming. *Parousia* refers the second coming 18 times in the NT and never refers to Christ’s first coming.
 - Peter says in his earlier teaching he has already made known to the people, who will receive the letter, the power and *Parousia*.
 - The doctrine that Christ has all power and authority and that He will come again is both essential to our faith.
 - Believers are to be characterized by earnest, serious, joyful belief in the visible, personal return of the God-man Jesus Christ. This truth is at the center of our faith.
 - The promise that Jesus Christ will come again in power is a central premise of the faith.
 - That truth is firmly grounded on the accounts of eyewitnesses. Though we saw Him die on the cross and put Him in a grave, we saw Him alive 3 days later. “He is alive!”
 - Our faith and its doctrines are not grounded in “*cleverly devised myth*” but on eyewitness testimony of reliable witnesses.
 - The doctrines of the Christian faith are not based on clever mythical speculation but on historical observation. Real people as eyewitnesses to astounding events.
 - Knowledge of the truth is vital.
6. **2 Peter 1:2:** “*May grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord.*”
- Verse 1:3, “*His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge ...*”
 - Verse 1:5, “*For this very reason, make every effort to supplement your faith with virtue and virtue with knowledge.*”
 - Verse 1:6, “*For if these qualities are yours and are increasing, they keep you from being ineffective or unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.*”
 - Christian faith needs knowledge to flourish in the good deeds our Lord requires.
7. **Truth Revealed:** Verses 1:17-18 are about the historical event that gave Peter great confidence in Christ’s power and second coming.
- Peter’s eyewitness knowledge came from experiencing the stunning majesty of Jesus on the Mount of Transfiguration. It is the historical event that gave Peter such high confidence in Jesus’ power and the surety of His second coming.
 - Jesus, the one with whom Peter had shared so much, appeared to Peter, James, and John in an undisguised, undeniable form of God confirmed by the voice of the Majestic Glory from heaven saying, “*This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.*”
 - Peter, James, and John all witnessed this mind-boggling event, not from a distance, but standing close to Jesus on the holy mountain. It left a lasting impression.
 - This eyewitness experience convinced Peter that Jesus will return with astounding power, glory, and authority. They had witnessed a preview of the glory Christ’s second coming
 - Writing some 30 years after the event, Peter remained in awe of what he had witnessed.

8. **The Lamp of the Prophetic Word**: In verse 1:19 Peter emphasizes the sureness of the fact that Christ will come again, a truth that believers should pay attention to as they wait for it to happen. One fine day Christ will stand again on earth.
- The glorious coming of the Messiah was predicted by the OT prophets (e.g., Malachi 4:2; Isaiah 60:1; etc.). They spoke the prophetic word given them by God.
 - And now the word that came through the prophets has been confirmed before eyewitnesses who saw Jesus' transfiguration and heard the words spoken to Him from the majestic glory.
9. **2 Peter 1:19**: *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.*
- The world is covered in the darkness of sin, deceit, fear, and greed (Colossians 1:13).
 - Peter encourages people to pay attention to the prophetic word of God.
 - The prophetic word is the proper light to shine in a dark world, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in their hearts. The morning star symbolizes the light Christ will bring to people's hearts when he returns.
 - The prophetic word is ***"more sure"*** to him and us because it was confirmed on the mount of transfiguration to Peter, James, and John, 3 eyewitnesses.
 - In the last half of verse 1:19, Peter returns to admonition. Because the world is deep in the darkness of sin, those who live in the age of darkness are in danger of being caught in the trap set by the plentiful temptations and falsehoods.
 - The only hope of survival is to have a bright light to show us the right path. The prophetic word (the Word of God) is that bright light. The hope of the return of Jesus Christ is the lamp unto our feet and a light to our path in this very dark world. Pay attention!
 - Let the light of the promise of Christ's glorious return guide us away from sin's temptations until the dawn of the promised day arrives.
 - In Revelation 22:16, Jesus said, ***"I am ... the bright morning star."***
 - In Revelation 2:26-28, Jesus promises, ***"The one who conquers and who keeps my works until the end, to him I will give authority over the nations ... even as I myself have received authority from my Father. And I will give him the morning star."***
10. **Romans 8:19**: ***"For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God."***
11. **Matthew 13:43**: ***"Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father."***
- These prophetic promises are astounding. If these things are so, we have every incentive for hope, joy, and striving to live in a way that pleases God.
12. **Next**: 2 Peter 1:20-21.