

## Transcription of 15ID1604

2 Peter 1:10-15

"Remember"

December 20, 2015

All right. Let's open our Bibles this morning to 2 Peter 1:10, as we continue this morning with the last letter that Peter would write. In fact, he is in a Roman jail cell. He is awaiting execution. Verse 14, we will read this morning, tells us he knew his death was right around the corner; he would be crucified upside down. And he would write this letter two or three years after the first letter that we studied and about three years before Jerusalem would be leveled by Titus and the tenth Roman legion. So, by now, the persecution that has come from Nero is fully engaged. For 250 years, millions of folks die for their faith. Imagine living in those days when you showing up here might be the end of your life. But that's the plight of the church, and that was the group to whom Peter was writing. And because it's his last letter, and Peter knew this was the end of things for him here upon the earth, he chose very carefully the topics and the words; and I think the words of a dying man are always worth listening to because they get right to the point. And Peter certainly did. So the letter takes on more significance. A lot of times Peter uses the word "remind" you or "remember" what I've taught you, "remember" what you've learned, "remember" what God has said.

Well, we looked at the first four verses, and Peter starts immediately by saying that the most important thing that you and I can do - as Christians - is to know God well, personally and well; to have faith in His Person, to have faith in his power, and to have faith in His promises; that that's the best we can do. Let's go in that direction.

But then in verses 5-9, a couple of weeks ago, Peter said we have to do our part. There is a "your responsibility" side to this relationship with God. He comes and reveals Himself to you. He empowers you. He teaches you. But you have to do something, too. You have to "add to your faith." And beginning in verse 5, where that word "add" is first found, Peter then says to us that there's a side of the equation of being in Christ that we can begin to do, and the operative word is we should "add." And he talked about the diligence that you need to show in growing up as a believer. "Add to your faith virtue, to virtue knowledge, to knowledge self-control, to self-control perseverance, to perseverance godliness, to godliness brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness the love of God." But then, in verses 8 and 9 - the important verses, "If you do these things," verse 8, "you'll abound,

you'll not be unfruitful, you'll not be barren in your understanding or in your knowledge of God. You'll get close to the Lord. It'll cause everything to go forward and grow." "If you don't," verse 9, "you will deteriorate in your spiritual life." You can just kind of sit and die spiritually, and you won't be able to have that vision and that understanding that God wants you to have. In fact, Peter goes so far as to say, "you'll only see the things that are closest at hand," referring to the world rather than to the Lord. You'll get kind of stuck without peace and without joy. We stopped in verse 9 because that's all the time we had last time. We want to finish verses 10 and 11 just to kind of finish the thought, and then we will finish, this morning, looking at verses 12 through 15 as Peter, knowing he is going to die, leaves us with a couple of things to think about in terms of us dying; and especially in terms of verse 11.

So let's start verse 10. "Therefore," Peter says (because you're to add and to know Him, and if you do these things you'll abound, verses 8 and 9), "brethren, be even more diligent to make your call and election sure, for if you do these things you will never stumble." So, "therefore...." Here's the application - since you know that adding to your faith is going to make you strong in the Lord, give it all you've got. The word "diligent" is the Greek word "*spoudazo*," and it means give it all your energy, but do it quickly. It isn't just try hard; but try hard now. Put it into practice now. The "adding" of last time comes with a promise, notice in verse 8, of what it will accomplish and a warning of where we will end up without it. So, knowing that, let's go for it.

Now, in the context of what Peter is going to say when we get to chapter 2 - and I think chapter 2 might be the most miserable chapter in the Bible, so we'll only spend a month there; well, it's an important chapter. It's kind of like here's what gives you life, here's what brings death, and here's what the Lord's coming - the end. But it's a chapter all about false teachers and their ability to take Christians and lead them astray. It's not a very encouraging chapter, but it's good that we're warned - but in light of what he is going to say, beginning in verse 1 of chapter 2, Peter says here, literally, "Look, the key to stability is knowing God personally and actively pursuing Him" because it's much easier for a false teacher to take out someone who's not diligent. Whether it is troubles from without or heresy from within, Christians that are sitting ducks are those who don't know God very well and don't know His Word or practice it very much at all. So, we have to be sure where we stand and continue to walk in what we know. Paul was able to write to Timothy, "I'm not ashamed, for I know whom I have believed" (2 Timothy 1:12). He was solid

in his place with God. Your best protection against any kind of unsettling influence from false teachers is to have a present-tense working relationship with God. Stay close. Be ongoing in your diligence. Right? Have your feet solidly planted on the Rock, on the immovable Rock of God, rather than living with God in some arm's-length kind of Sunday-morning-for-45-minute relationship. That's really not going to get it done for you. You'll be easy prey for those who claim spiritual insight and have none. So Peter says, "You should be diligent, give it all you've got, do it quickly. It will secure you. And make sure your calling and election." In other words, just be sure of your standing with God. Know that you're saved. Know where you stand. Know how God sees you. The word "calling" is the Greek word "*klesis*," but it means the invitation of God to be saved. God gives it to all men. Come and be saved. Right? To all men. The word "election," "*eklogi*," means choosing because the wonderful thing about getting saved is once you get saved, God tells you in His Word, "I chose you." You might think you arrived uninvited. You didn't. You were invited. And the Lord has been working. And when you came, the Lord said, "I just want you to know I chose you;" which is a good thing to know because no one else may choose you. But He did, and that's a comfort. But it is a comfort given only to the saints. So, if we are not certain where we stand, if we're not "adding to our faith," it won't take long your joy of your salvation will be gone; you might even begin to doubt whether you're truly saved or not. So Peter just keeps hammering this "adding."

And notice what he says in verse 10. "If you do these things you won't stumble." Nothing will take you out. John, when he wrote his epistle towards the end of your Bible, said (1 John 3:18-21), "If you don't love in word and in tongue, but if you'll love in deed and in truth, you'll know the truth, you'll assure your hearts before God. And if your own heart condemns you, even then God will be greater than your heart. He knows everything. But if your own heart does not condemn you, if you come to a place where you realize where you stand - your calling and election sure, then you can have," John says, "confidence towards God." It's all about knowing where you stand with Him. But by doing, you'll stand and not fall, and you won't stumble. Your calling, your election, your relationship will be established. And all of this stuff - not only the false teachers - but imagine the persecution that was coming; Paul wasn't willing to turn away from it, Peter didn't, and neither did the church. The church grew like wildfire under this kind of pressure. You'd think otherwise. But usually the church dies when there's no pressure. So, do these things diligently.

And then here's the consequence again. Verse 11, "for so an entrance will be supplied to you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ." In the present tense, verses 9 and 10, you are fruitful, and you are useful, and there's no stumbling, and you are assured. And in the future tense, an abundant arrival. Abundant arrival. Imagine just not getting to heaven but getting there abundantly. The word "*plousios*" means richly or overflowing. I think that many Christians are just thinking, "If I can just get in, if I can just slip in while the door is closing.....I made it! That's all I care about." But that's not how God sees it. He wants you to show up with the band playing and the flags out and "whoop" - another saint has made it home with the riches of his ministry and life. It's one thing to just run the race, but it's quite another to win. Right? Paul said run to win (1 Corinthians 9:24). You don't want to start running and then, "Well, I'm going to start walking," and then pretty soon, "I'm sitting in the infield," and pretty soon, "I've left the stadium altogether." We want to run to win. Press on. Be diligent. That's what he says in verse 10. You'll never stumble. And if you live like this, wait till you get there! It's going to be amazing. A rich welcome as God brings the rewards of your faithfulness to Him and His goodness to you to pass. In the old days, when the Olympics were run, and the athletes ran the marathon, if you won the marathon, you were not allowed to come in through the gate of the city; they built you a new gate. Your name was on it, and you were the only one who could go through it; and you walked through it, the glory was yours. "Here's the guy that won. Look, he's got his own gate into town." Thunderous applause. Wouldn't that be a better way to get to heaven? Rather than, "Am I in? All right." And people are going, "How did you get in here?" (Laughing) No. An abundant entrance.

I was reading the story a couple of days ago about a fellow named Robert Manry. He was a fellow who, in 1965, crossed the Atlantic in the smallest boat ever - a 13-footer named Tinkerbelle. It's like a big surfboard, you know? It took him almost 90 days; it took him actually 78 days. He lost the rudder several times, he washed overboard. He actually strapped himself to this boat several days when the stormy seas came up. And he said when he was in shipping lanes, he'd have to stay awake for days - hungry, tired. He wondered why he ever started down this road. He left Falmouth, Massachusetts. He was going to Falmouth, Cornwall, in England. So, when he got nearby, he was so surprised to see 20,000 people along the shoreline to welcome him. The word had gotten out this knucklehead was trying to cross the Atlantic in Tinkerbelle. So everybody was there to see him for a hundred different reasons. But he was so excited that so many people had showed up to

welcome him. He said it was all worth it. And I thought that's a pretty good example of what we're going through. It's tough to walk with Jesus in this life. It's tough to put Him first. Lots of things vying for your time and your attention. And selfishness and pride and sin. There's just so much stuff. But if you can get a hold of that, if you can add diligently, it'll be worth it when you arrive. You'll be glad you did, right? As the band starts to play and the angels come to give you high-fives, it's going to be quite something. By the way, if you want to see the Tinkerbelle, it's in the Western Reserve Historical Society in Cleveland, Ohio. So next time you're there, that's the place you want to go.

Look, neither Paul nor Peter, for that matter - most of whom wrote the New Testament - were advocates of "just getting in." That wasn't something that God said was a good thing for us, that you could just "get in." Right? God wants to just bring you in abundantly - like, "He's home!" That's His heart. Not like somebody says, "Dude, you're not even sweatin.' You didn't run the race. How did you make it in here?" No. We want to give it all that we have. Jesus said to the disciples, "If you love your enemies and lend and do good and hope for nothing in return, your reward will be great in heaven" (Luke 6:35). It's that adding. It's that giving. Paul said, to the Corinthians (1 Corinthians 3:8), "One plants, one waters, but each one will receive his own reward according to his labor. And if your work endures, you'll receive a reward." He spoke in chapter 9 of 1 Corinthians about his own ministry; he said (verse 17), "If I do this willingly, I'll get a reward" (preaching he was talking about), "but if I don't, I have a stewardship. God's given me a responsibility. But it's a matter of the heart. It's a willingness on my part that I'm going to get a reward." You know, you're going to get rewards in heaven. And Peter, looking ahead, knowing his days were numbered, and thinking about this himself, said, "Here, add to your faith, man. Walk and be diligent because one day you're going to arrive to glorious welcome. Not just slithering in. But glorious welcome." Paul said to the Hebrews, in chapter 11:26, that Moses "esteemed the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt; for he looked to the reward." Jesus said in Revelation 22:12, "I am coming, and My rewards are with Me." It's going to be a good day when you go and stand before the Lord and are welcome. But you're going to go in as a hero, as a champion, as a soldier and as a servant. And notice the words, here in verse 11, God will supply that kind of entrance. Now you should know that the word "supplied" in verse 11 is the same word as "add" in verse 5. You "add to your faith;" God will add to your entrance - abundance. You give it your all. He'll make sure that He recognizes that when you arrive.

Have you ever thought about the fact that some people will receive a more glorious entrance into heaven than others? It's kind of an odd thought, isn't it? But it's true. It's true. You read 1 Corinthians 3:11-15 or so, where it talks about laying a foundation; and if the work you build upon it endures, you get a reward; if the work is burned up, no reward, but you'll be saved. So, how do you get in? You "add" so that you can have an abundant entrance. What you don't want to hear is, "Oh, you made it? Ahhh. Peter and I had a bet whether you'd make it or not. I guess he won." (Laughing) What Peter is saying is, "Look, whatever the compensation is here, whatever the loss here is - to serve God, it'll be made up in gain there. You really can't lose here. This isn't a tradeoff where it's one for one. You're going to be abundantly blessed as you put Him first in your life." So, the Bible doesn't exhort you to be mediocre but to be excellent; not to be satisfied with your progress. Do better! A new year is coming. Vow to do better. God wants you to grow. He wants you to be fruitful. He wants you to be satisfied and sure of your salvation and safe from false doctrine. He wants you to win the race. He wants you to glorify God. But you've got to add! And you've got to do it, verse 10, with diligence.

The rule of the Christian life is pretty easy - you learn and you know, then you believe and you do. And then one day you'll arrive, and the Lord will be there to greet you, and He will give you crowns that you can lay at His feet in His honor. But you'll get an abundant entry. It'll be like a surprise party. The fruit of God's work in you. "Welcome!" And all the people that you've affected, the lives that you've touched, the people you've shared with, the folks that have heard - are going to welcome you at the gate. It's going to be a great day for you! And Peter couldn't wait. The poor guy's on death row, ready to (sound of cutting his throat), and he's just looking for that. "I can't wait for that."

Well then in verse 12, having ended his "add" champion campaign, he turns to talk about his death, and he wants to say to the church, "Live well. You never know when your time is up. So be ready to die well. And then, in living well and then dying well," verse 11, "we'll show up. You'll end up with that abundant entrance."

I was reading some comments the other day that I thought were pretty funny. Some guy had done a little interview in a school with younger kids and asked them about death and all, and I wrote a few of them down. A 7-year-old kid, he wrote this on his little request paper, "God doesn't tell you when you're going to die for He wants it to be a big surprise." 7-year-old. A 10-year-old kid wrote this, "A

good doctor can help you so you won't die. A bad one will send you right to heaven." Then a 9-year-old kid who said, "Doctors help you so you won't die until you've paid all of their bills." (Laughing) That was pretty smart. And a 6-year-old kid said, "Heaven's going to be great. There's going to be no homework unless your teacher's there as well." (Laughing)

I don't know how many Star Trek fans you are, but (the prophet) Captain Kirk once said, "Has it ever occurred to you that how you deal with death is at least as important as how you deal with life?" So, Peter here, dying, gives us some things to run with. And I want to give you three things - just from these last four verses - that you might want to keep in mind that Peter leaves us with as we talk about our life. Solomon wrote, "There's a time to be born, and a time to die" (Ecclesiastes 3:2). In the middle, we call that life. So how do we live the life?

In verse 12 he says this - You should live with death in mind. I know it sounds somber, but spiritually, it'll do you great wonders, great good. Live with death in mind. He says this, "For this reason I will not be negligent to remind you always of these things, though you know and are established in the present truth." "Because of these truths" (specifically verse 11, verses 8 and 9, verses 5 through 7 - the adding all), "I don't want to neglect reminding you of these things because eternal inheritance is at stake. Your entrance into heaven is on the line." And Peter pressed these known truths home again and said, "Look, I don't want to be negligent in keeping them always before you." I am sure that Peter, sitting on death row, and like most folks - when you're near certain death, all of the little things go away. You major on the majors. And I think that's what Peter is doing here. He was sure his time is up. He had spoken about going home with an abundant entrance. It had become his present motivation for everything he did. In verse 14, he said it again. In verse 15, he speaks of his own demise. Now Peter says, "Look, I want you to live with death in mind. You know this is coming. I don't want to be negligent in reminding you. Death is coming for you." Now Peter was in his seventies, it would appear, when he wrote this. So I guess when you're in your seventies, you think about death more than when you're eighteen or twenty-five. But it really shouldn't be that way. We would be wise, at every step along the way, to focus on eternal things. Here's what Solomon wrote in Ecclesiastes 7:2-4, "Better to go to the house of mourning than to go to the house of feasting, for that is the end of all men; and the living will take it to heart. Sorrow is better than laughter, for by a sad countenance the heart is made better. The heart of the wise is in the house of mourning, but the heart of fools is in the house of

mirth." Now that sounds kind of like a downer, but Solomon is saying, "Look, if you deal with the lost things upfront, you'll be wiser for it. You'll be better off if you are willing to face the inevitable." Peter says the same thing here. For him, verse 14, it was inevitable. Things were coming to a close in his own life. When Paul wrote to the Hebrews, he said, "It is appointed for men once to die, and then the judgment would come" (chapter 9:27). Solomon wrote, towards the end of the book that he wrote (Ecclesiastes 12:1), "Remember your Creator in the days of your youth, before the difficult days come, and the years draw near when you say, 'I have no pleasure in them.' " It's interesting how, when you get older, life isn't always what you think it would be. He says in chapter 12:6 of Ecclesiastes, "Remember your Creator before the silver cord is loosed, or the golden bowl is broken, or the pitcher shattered at the fountain, or the wheel broken at the well. Then the dust will return to the earth as it was, and the spirit will return to God who gave it." Remember Him before all of this takes place. That's Peter's counsel to the church. And the church was dying in record numbers but also growing in record numbers. "For this reason I won't be negligent to remind you always of these things. I want you to remember them. Be focused." Look, you have an appointment with God. I don't know when it is, but it is written in ink. It won't be erased, can't be cancelled. You're going alone to stand before God. Be ready. An abundant entrance is coming your way.

You know, if you hired an attorney and he said, "I charge \$500 an hour," you don't want his first question to you to be, "So tell me about yourself." You shut up. It's \$500 an hour. "We'll just get right to the point. We're not going to waste any time here." And I think that's what Peter is trying to say to us. Live with death in mind. Plan for an abundant entrance. And notice that - and we'll see it in all of these verses - Peter, as a good pastor, was sure of one thing: the church has a problem forgetting things when it comes to spiritual things. It is not the plight of old age. It is just the plight of people when it comes to God. How often have you sat in a study where the Lord spoke to you and you said, "Lord, I'm going to make some changes from this day forward," and it lasted about a day and a half? And you can't even remember what it was, but, "Oh, it was moving!" I've had people come to me, "Oh, Pastor, last Sunday was awesome!" So I do this, "What did you like about it?" And they go, "It was awesome!" Couldn't tell you a thing about it. "It was awesome. I remember something going on. I had no idea what it was." Fortunately, I don't remember half the time, so that's all right. But.... (Laughing) I love the fact that my phone can now find your phone number just by typing in your name. The cell phone has a better memory than I do. Computers pop up passwords,



right? Email addresses. They log on .... I'd be in a world of trouble. But when it comes to spiritual things, I don't have any of that help. I've just got to commit myself to learning and to remembering. And Peter goes out of his way to say, "It's an age old problem, and it's a problem for the most mature of Christians." Notice what he says at the end of the verse. He said, "I'll remind you even though I know that presently you are right there, established in the truth. I know that you know these things, but I want to remind you anyway." And I think that there's something to be said for that. He's not speaking to babes in Christ. He's not speaking to fallen Christians or weak Christians. He's writing to guys who are on their game spiritually, and yet he said, "You need to be reminded." And I think that that's an important issue - that we stay teachable lest we think we stand and we fall. Paul said to Timothy, in the first letter he wrote to him (1 Timothy 4:16), "Hey, Timothy, take heed to yourself and to your doctrine. You continue in them. In so doing, you'll save yourself and those who hear you." There's something to be said for us being reminded, and it has a lot to say to us. Because Peter, from death row, makes it clear that, as far as he can see, Christians need constant prodding and exposure to the Scriptures even though they know it - because we'll forget it. Call it "preventative worshipping" or "maintenance studying." I don't know. But keep it close. It is the primary reason we would encourage all of you not to make your experience in church with God 45 minutes on Sunday, and that's your life. It's not really going to be too helpful. Get to church. Get in as often as you can. Serve wherever you're able. Plug yourself in. Live with death in mind.

Second of all, verses 13 and 14 - Live like you are camping. Oh my. "Yes," Peter says in verse 13, "I think it is right," (the word means fitting, if you will) "as long as I am in this tent, to stir you up by reminding you, knowing that shortly I must put off my tent, just as our Lord Jesus Christ showed me." Now twice Peter uses the word "tents," "*skenoma*." It's a word that means temporary dwelling places. I know folks who like to camp. I am not one of them. I believe God had Hilton born so I don't have to camp. But even hardcore tent campers (not the fake guys who have an RV with a 400-channel satellite feed - but the real campers), the guys who live in the dirt, they don't like it for very long. The kids like it okay. But after you turn about 15, you don't like it much anymore. You get, "Ow," everything hurts. "What am I doing? I need a bath. I need something hot." So when the Bible starts talking about camping and tents and our bodies being like tents, it teaches me immediately. "Thank You, Lord, we're not meant to camp." We're not going to be here forever. We're ready to move along. Right? In fact, when Paul wrote to the Corinthians, he said in 2 Corinthians 5:1, "I know that if this earthly house, this

tent, is destroyed," (and the word "destroyed" just means taken down) "I'm going to have a permanent home, eternal in the heavens, not made with hands." There's going to be a life to come and a body to live in that are going to last for eternity. But, look, these bodies are like tents, aren't they? They wear out. Look in the mirror, man. It'll frighten you. I think the reason God has old people lose their eyesight is because He doesn't want them to see what's going on (Laughing) with their bodies. I truly believe that's true. It's a mercy thing. (Laughing) And then people will lie to you, "You look great!" You look like you're death warmed over, but, "Oh, you look fine!" Sure you do. The tent flap doesn't stay closed anymore. There's more duct tape on you than on the roll. You're going to die! But if you can remember that when you're young, you'll live a better life because you'll realize this is camping, man. This is just a place you hang out. This isn't meant to be forever. Live with death in mind. But live like you're camping out. You know, Abraham never built a house. He spent his whole life, once he came out of the land to the place God wanted him, just camping - in this place and in that place and just moving along. Look, the next place is going to be awesome. It's going to be permanent. It's going to have no ravages of sin. That tent's going to be permanent because that's going to be a house. Right? Tent is, oh my gosh. What a hard work. I want turn-down service and a mint on the pillow. This is heaven, almost.

So here's the deal. How do you spend your time in the tent so that, by the time this tent is folded up (verse 11 applies), you are getting an abundant entrance into heaven? How do you live in the tent now? So Peter said, "I think it's proper that as long as I'm alive, I spend my energy reminding you of what God wants." You know, thirty-plus years earlier, Luke 22, Peter had heard from Jesus at the last supper, and He said (verses 31-32), "Simon, Satan has asked for you, that he may sift you as wheat. But I have prayed for you ..... and when you have returned to Me, strengthen your brethren." "Just help them to grow up." And I think Peter took that seriously. And he'd been at it now for thirty-plus years. You might remember, and I was thinking about that this morning, how often my parents wore me out with their warnings. It seemed like they were endless. When I was young, it was like, "Cross the street, look both ways, don't talk to strangers." When I got a little older, "Don't hang around with that kid at school, we don't like him, he's not good for you." When I got to drive, then it was, "Don't drink and drive, don't take your friends in school." And my father, when I got my driver license, my dad lost half of his life, I think. He'd just stay up till I was home. He worried every second I was driving. It's like the worst thing that could happen - I got a license. Fortunately nothing happened. But parents do that, right? There was constant

warning, and you have to believe it's just because they cared for me, right? They couldn't say it enough. They could tell me a hundred times, and I'd go, "I get it!" and they'd tell me a hundred more. It's just the way parents are. That's what they do. That's how they are. And I love Peter going, "Look, I just think it's right. If I'm just breathing, I'm warning you. That's the father in me." That's the pastor in Peter. He had a heart for the people, and these words meant even more to him now that he knew he was about to go. And I would say that by now he knew how he was going to go. Thirty-plus years ago, John 21, Jesus had told Peter that he was going to be carried around by others and taken where he didn't want to be. And John wrote, "This is how he was going to die." Crucified. And he wouldn't be crucified like Jesus. He said, "Crucify me upside down." Peter knew what was coming; and it was coming in weeks, not years. And so he writes to us, "Live like you understand you're living in a tent, man. Life is passing. Live with death in mind. It's coming." His time was about up. When Paul was ready to die, 2 Timothy 4, he said (verses 7-8), "I'm finished. I've run the race. I'm looking forward to this abundant entrance, to the rewards that God has - not only for me but everyone who loves His appearing." He died with the same anticipation. "I can't wait for the band to start up and to arrive in heaven." So Peter was making the same plans. Live like you're camping. You're soon to be leaving because you really don't die; you just move, don't you?

Well, finally, verse 15, Peter says one last thing. He said, "You should live for the benefit of others, and you should leave a legacy that will outlive you." Verse 15, "Moreover I will be careful to ensure that you always have a reminder of these things after my decease." Peter wanted to go one step further. He wanted to leave them a reminder by writing this letter to them so that when he was gone, he would still be there to haunt them, so to speak. But he lived for others. Right? He was on his death bed going, "I've got to get this done because I want you to have this when I'm gone so you'll continue to walk with God. Leave a legacy that outlives you." Just think about it. This book is 2000 years old, this book we're studying. And we're gathering this morning to say, "God, speak to us through it."

What kind of legacy are you leaving from your life? If you're leaving your family money, and that's it, you've failed them. Money is cheap, man. It's easy to come by. Just go work hard. Spend your whole life. You can get the money. But if you leave behind godliness and holiness and contentment, that's great gain. You want to leave that behind when you go; not some of the other things that the world says is valuable. No, no. You want to leave a witness with your family, with your friends,

that will cause others to follow you. For years after, fruit will still be arriving in heaven into your account. Peter says, "I'm going to leave." The word "decease," by the way, in Greek is "*exodus*." It's the same word Jesus used as He spoke with Moses and Elijah there in Luke 9:31. And no doubt Peter was finishing up his conferences. You know, the gospel of Mark (and I'm thinking of doing the gospel of Mark on Sunday mornings just because of the attachment to Peter; when we're finished) - but Peter had John Mark as kind of his disciple under his arm. And John Mark was way too young to remember everything that happened when Jesus was around. But he wanted to write it all down, and Peter, it would appear, gave John Mark all of the information, and Mark wrote it down. The gospel of Mark is the testimony of Peter to a young man. And so I think he was probably finishing up. That was it. So, not only does he leave them this letter, he leaves them an entire gospel through this young man; as well as the witness that he set before them. So Peter said, "Look, I'll be careful to ensure that you have a reminder even when I'm gone." That would be a good way to live your life. Leave a legacy that outlives you. Leave an example behind. You don't want your kids saying of you one day, "Oh, he loved football." You want them to say, "He loved Jesus." That's what you want. Then you've left them something worthwhile.

So live with death in mind, and live like you're camping because this ain't your home. Praise the Lord. See, I think camping is painted in a terrible light that way. I like that very much because I totally.....and live to leave a legacy behind. Don't grow weary of repetition. Be teachable. Add to your faith. Apply yourself. Heaven is waiting. Your abundant entrance is waiting. You can plan for it if you like. And I love verse 13 where Peter says, "I just want to stir you up." It's a word that means to awaken you from lethargy; because I think we kind of settle in so fast. "I want to pump you up." That's exactly what it says right there. Arnold's right here in the Bible. Look at that. (Laughing) You have an appointment with death.

There's an old Indian proverb that says, "When you were born, you cried, and the world rejoiced. Be sure that when you die, you rejoice and the world cries." Not the other way around.

Submitted by Maureen Dickson  
December 22, 2015