

Life Link**Title: "Remember"****Big Idea: Introductory Illustration:****FROM ATHEIST AND SKEPTIC TO BELIEVER--THE CASE OF LEE STROBEL**

Lee Strobel was a Yale Law School graduate and a journalist for the Chicago Tribune. When he was a skeptic and an atheist, he undertook an investigation into the claims of so called "prophets." He set out to debunk the prophecies of Jeane Dixon, Nostradamus, and the Old Testament writers. Jeane Dixon was the easiest target. He found she was right about 6% of the time. She predicted World War III would start in 1954 and that Castro would be thrown out of Cuba in 1970. And Jeane Dixon predicted Jacqueline Kennedy would never remarry and the NEXT DAY she announced her engagement to Aristotle Onassis. When Lee studied Nostradamus, he discovered his writings from 1555 were mysterious and often mistranslated. He was intentionally vague and has been misquoted to make his writings fit modern events. It was easy for him to debunk the prophecies of Jeane Dixon and Nostradamus. But when he studied the predictions of the Old Testament, he was unable to refute the evidence. They aren't vague or enigmatic: They are specific and clear. When Strobel studied them and compared them to the life of Jesus, he became convinced Jesus was who He claimed to be—the Son of God. Today he is a leading Christian speaker and author.

(From a sermon by David Dykes, *Jesus is STILL Performing Miracles*, 8/31/2011)

Peter is mindful of the impending danger that Christian believers face. He previously describe the enemy, satan as a roaring lion seeking to destroy the believers of Jesus (1 Pet 5:8). He encourages us to be ever mindful of the danger in the world today. Peter is driven by his responsibility to warn Christians of the danger of the world as he approached the end of his life.

Read Sermon Text: Sermon Text:

2 Peter 1:12-21 <Peter's Approaching Death>12 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. 13 Yes, I think it is right, as long as I am in this tent, to stir you up by reminding you, 14 knowing that shortly I must put off my tent, just as our Lord Jesus Christ showed me. 15 Moreover I will be careful to ensure that you always have a reminder of these things after my decease.

The Trustworthy Prophetic Word (Matt 17:5; Mark 9:7; Luke 9:35)

16 For we did not follow cunningly devised fables when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of His majesty. 17 For He received from God the Father honor and glory when such a voice came to Him from the Excellent Glory: "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased." 18 And we heard this voice which came from heaven when we were with Him on the holy mountain.

19 And so we have the prophetic word confirmed, which you do well to heed as a light that shines in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts; 20 knowing this first, that no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation, 21 for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit.

NKJV

1. Remember The Word (vs. 13)

2 Peter 1:13 Yes, I think it is right, as long as I am in this tent, to stir you up by reminding you, NKJV

- a. Peter states "I think it is right" isn't that just like all of us, we think we are right but, when it comes right down to it what are we really basing our thought process on. For Peter it is his own personal experience and the scriptures backed by the prophetic word of the Old Testament.
 - i. Personal experience and eye witness of the events are one of the strongest motivations for right thinking. Peter was present at the transfiguration of Jesus. He was a personal witness of the ascension of Jesus. As he stood and watched the resurrected Christ ascend into the heavens Peter knew that He (Jesus) would return again in like manner.

1 Thess 4:13-18 But I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep, lest you sorrow as others who have no hope. 14 For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus. 15 For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep. 16 For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. 17 Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord. 18 Therefore comfort one another with these words. NKJV

- b. Yes, Peter knew that Jesus would return as he watched Him return to the Father in heaven. But Peter also observed those were with Him on the wonderful moment. Two Old Testament saints Moses and Elijah who were there to represent all of the fallen saints, These two will represent believing Jews who will see the return of Jesus just as He ascended, He will return to take Peter and all who believe. Peter is saying to us that we have his personal eye witness account that as Christ ascended He will also come again to receive His own unto Himself. e have the Transfiguration to assure us He is with the father and not in the tomb, we have the appearance of the Old Testament saints to assure us that no believer will be left out and we have the scripture, The Word of God Himself that we will all be with Him in eternity.
- c. Peter uses the term "tent" to remind us that this life he and we live is only a temporary dwelling place. It is only used four (4) times in the New Testament. It carries the meaning of a "tabernacle" a temporary dwelling place. In the Old Testament God instructed the Israelites to construct a "tabernacle" in order that God could be in the mist of His people as they traveled through the wilderness. Peter reminds us that as long as he was in this body it is only temporary and we could remember the promise that is waiting for us in Christ Jesus.

2 Cor 5:1 For we know that if our earthly house, this tent, is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. NKJV

2 Cor 5:4 For we who are in this tent groan, being burdened, not because we want to be unclothed, but further clothed, that mortality may be swallowed up by life. NKJV

2 Peter 1:13 Yes, I think it is right, as long as I am in this tent, to stir you up by reminding you,
NKJV

2 Peter 1:14 knowing that shortly I must put off my tent, just as our Lord Jesus Christ showed me.
NKJV

2. Remember Prophetic Word (vs. 19)

2 Peter 1:19-20 And so we have the prophetic word confirmed, which you do well to heed as a light that shines in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts; 20 knowing this first, that no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation,
NKJV

- a. We have the prophetic word confirmed by the historical events recorded in the Bible and history. Peter points out that prophetic Word brings light in to the darkness of this world.

John 1:9 That was the true Light which gives light to every man coming into the world. NKJV

Peter illustrates that the darkness of this world and can only be illuminated by the coming of the day and the "bright and morning star" Jesus Christ. Jesus said I am the light of the world. (John 8:12) While the world is in the darkness of sin we must recognized that illumination must take place in the heart of men.

John 8:12 Then Jesus spoke to them again, saying, "I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life."
NKJV

Text Illustration:

DON'T JUST HANG ON...HANG IN

Decades ago, Oswald Chambers wrote about spiritual perseverance, defining it as... not to hang on and do nothing, but to work deliberately, knowing with certainty that God will never be defeated. The Bible is full of examples of men and women who didn't "just-hang-on" but rather "hung-in" with God, pressing for illumination, inspiration and insight.

- b. For the Bible student Peter provides us insightful guidance to understanding of God's word. Verse (20) "knowing this first, that no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation,". We must not attempt to interpret scripture on our own but, we should use scripture to understand scripture.

2 Timothy 3:16 All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, NKJV

John 14:26-27 But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you. NKJV

John 16:13-15 However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come. 14 He will glorify Me, for He will take of what is Mine and declare it to you. NKJV

3. Remember We Can Trust The Word (vs. 21)

2 Peter 1:21 for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit. NKJV

- a. Critics of the Bible want to say that the Bible was written by mere men who had their own agenda. While that may be true of other documents held of high esteem by the world it is certainly not true of the Bible. We have not only the Old Testament Prophets, Jewish historians such as Josephus, of historical recorded events, eye witness accounts and God's word itself.

2 Tim 3:16 All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, NKJV

1 Peter 1:11 searching what, or what manner of time, the Spirit of Christ who was in them was indicating when He testified beforehand the sufferings of Christ and the glories that would follow. NKJV

2 Sam 23:2 "The Spirit of the Lord spoke by me, And His word was on my tongue. NKJV

Rev 19:10 And I fell at his feet to worship him. But he said to me, "See that you do not do that! I am your fellow servant, and of your brethren who have the testimony of Jesus. Worship God! For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy." NKJV

Conclusion: How sure is Peter confidence in the Word of God, he was and did place his eternal security and life in the hands of not the words of mere men, not in the fables of religious writings of others. Not anything else but the Gods Word. Peter remembered God's Word, God's Prophetic

Word and that we can trust in no other than God's Word. In fact when Jesus was asked by Jesus "Whom do men say that I am?" Peter responded "You are the Christ, Son of the living God."

So should we place our trust and eternal security in Christ alone. Today we have His written Word until the day of His return and in that day we will have the reality of the Word in the flesh.

Text Illustration:

5-year old Johnny was in the kitchen as his mother made supper. She asked him to go into the pantry and get her a can of tomato soup, but he didn't want to go in alone. "It's dark in there and I'm scared." She asked again, and he persisted. Finally she said, "It's OK--Jesus will be in there with you." Johnny walked hesitantly to the door and slowly opened it. He peeked inside, saw it was dark, and started to leave when all at once an idea came, and he said: "Jesus, if you're in there, would you hand me that can of tomato soup?" (Charles Allen, *Victory in the Valleys*.)

Is our faith like Johnny's we have a doubt or like Peter who was will to dye for what he beleived?