

2 Peter
(Lesson 12)

Introduction:

1. Peter began his second letter (1:1-4) by showing that God has provided special blessings for the benefit of His people.
 - a. He has provided what we need to be "*partakers of the divine nature.*"
 - b. Included are "*all things that pertain unto life and godliness*" and "*exceeding great and precious promises.*"
2. Peter continued (1:5-11) by showing that God has provided special responsibilities for the benefit of His people.
 - a. He has provided "the Christian graces" that are to be developed with "*all diligence.*"
 - b. Those who develop these graces:
 - 1) will be fruitful in the knowledge of Christ
 - 2) will remain faithful
 - 3) will be blessed with a home in heaven.
3. In this lesson we are studying the information presented in 1:12-21.

Discussion:

- I. (vs.12-15) PETER EMPHASIZED THE IMPORTANCE OF "ALWAYS KEEPING THESE THINGS IN REMEMBRANCE"
 - A. Peter wrote to people who knew these things -- they had been taught the truth.
 - B. However, Peter was committed to emphasizing these things as long as he lived.
 1. Jesus had instructed Peter to "*strengthen thy brethren*" (Luke 22:31-32).
 2. Jesus had also instructed Peter to "*feed my sheep*" (John 21:15-17).
 - C. Peter realized that his life would soon end, just as Jesus had showed him (John 21:18-19).
 - D. By writing this letter Peter was helping the Lord's people to always remember these things, even after he died.
- II. (vs.16-21) THE TEACHINGS OF THE APOSTLES ARE RELIABLE
 - A. In their teaching about Christ the apostles did not follow "*cunningly devised fables.*"
 - B. Peter, James, and John were present at the Transfiguration when the Father identified Jesus as His Son (Matthew 17:1-9; Mark 9:2-9; Luke 9:28-36).
 - C. The experience of the apostles at the Transfiguration confirmed the writings of the prophets.
 1. The prophets did not reveal information that originated with them.
 2. They revealed information under the guidance of the Holy Spirit.
 3. The inspiration process is explained in 1 Corinthians 2:9-13; Ephesians 3:3-5.