

<sup>12</sup> So I will always remind you of these things, even though you know them and are firmly established in the truth you now have. <sup>13</sup> I think it is right to refresh your memory as long as I live in the tent of this body, <sup>14</sup> because I know that I will soon put it aside, as our Lord Jesus Christ has made clear to me. <sup>15</sup> And I will make every effort to see that after my departure you will always be able to remember these things.

<sup>16</sup> For we did not follow cleverly devised stories when we told you about the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ in power, but we were eyewitnesses of his majesty. <sup>17</sup> He received honor and glory from God the Father when the voice came to him from the Majestic Glory, saying, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased." <sup>18</sup> We ourselves heard this voice that came from heaven when we were with him on the sacred mountain.

<sup>19</sup> We also have the prophetic message as something completely reliable, and you will do well to pay attention to it, as to a light shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts. <sup>20</sup> Above all, you must understand that no prophecy of Scripture came about by the prophet's own interpretation of things. <sup>21</sup> For prophecy never had its origin in the human will, but prophets, though human, spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.

### Review the context.

- What is Peter's role in the Church? (*historically or biblically (Matt.16:17-19)*)
- What does Peter want to remind the people of God about?

### Understand it.

- How does Peter's expectation of imminent death motivate his message to the Church?
- Peter defends the apostolic message of Jesus Christ and his coming in glory (v.16). How did Peter witness Jesus' glory? (See Mark 9:1-12)
- What the declaration over Jesus (at the *transfiguration*) declare to be true over Jesus? (v.17) Why was it important that there were witnesses to this event? (v.18)
- What is a "prophetic message"? ...and *who* were God's prophets? (v.19)
- How does Peter assert the reliability of his message – along with other apostolic teachings?
- How does the message of Jesus shine light in "dark places"?
- What is the significance of "the day" dawning and the morning star's presence in our hearts? How does this truth encourage the people of God who are beginning to doubt Jesus' return? (v.19)
- Peter's "above all" statement stresses an important doctrine of Scripture: where does prophetic truth originate? Why does it matter? (v.20-21)
- Conversely, how is human interpretation (alone) dangerous to the Church?

### Apply it.

- Imagine carrying a message of great importance and being near the end of life. What steps would you take to ensure that message's survival?
- How do you use the discipline of *remembrance* in your spiritual life? Describe at least one significant event that established your knowledge in the identity of Christ.
- Why do you believe (trust/have faith in) the Word of God?