

Why We Study the Bible

International Bible Lesson

2 Peter 1:12

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“Wherefore I will not be negligent to put you always in remembrance of these things, though ye know them, and be established in the present truth” (2 Peter 1:12—KJV).

“And so I will always remind you of these matters, even though you already know them and are firmly grounded in the truth you have received” (2 Peter 1:12—GNB).

“Therefore I intend to keep on reminding you of these things, though you know them already and are established in the truth that has come to you” (2 Peter 1:12—NRSV).

Why study the Bible? Why attend a Bible study class or go to Sunday school? In his second letter, the Apostle Peter gave the answers to these questions. Believers need to study what they already know in order to refresh their memory of the truth. We will forget many truths that we do not use often. Many people have forgotten some of the math formulas they learned in school, but we could not fly safely in an airplane if skilled designers and engineers forgot how to apply basic principles of math. In this life and to prepare for our meeting with God face to face, believers need to remember and apply the truths of Scripture upon which they base their faith. Peter wrote that remembering God’s promises will help believers “become participants of the divine nature” and “escape the corruption that is in the world” (2 Peter 1:4). From their study of the Bible, believers will learn how to keep supporting their faith with goodness, knowledge, self-control, endurance, godliness, mutual affection, love, and live effective and fruitful lives (2 Peter 1:5-11). All truth is God’s truth and worth learning; however, the Scriptures were not written by human will, but reveal what “men and women moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God” (2 Peter 1:21). God intentionally sent the prophets and Jesus Christ into the world in order to reveal truths for people to believe and live by now and forevermore. Furthermore, the Bible always points us to Jesus Christ, Who is “the way, and the truth, and the life” (John 14:6). — © Copyright 2013 L.G. Parkhurst, Jr.

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Thinking Further

1. Do you think churches today emphasize godliness as much as Peter did in his letters?

2. What reason does Peter give for the corruption that is in the world? Give some examples.

3. What does Peter say we need to do in addition to having faith?

4. Give some reasons for or examples of people who are “ineffective and unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ” (2 Peter 1:8).

5. From where did the scriptures and true prophecies come?

Read the verse by verse commentary on this lesson at the BibleLessonForum.com. See the recommended study and worship resources at SmallChurchResources.com.