

## Sermon: The Scriptures and The Son

Text: 2 Peter 1:12-21

### Discussion Questions:

When I think of the word “testament,” there are three things that come to my mind—

1. The Old Testament
2. The New Testament
3. A Last Will and Testament

Are there other ways you can think of the word “testament” being used?

Technically, the word testament (from the Latin *testamentum*) can refer to several things—

1. Strong evidence for something (as in, “*Her honesty is a testament to the fact that she’s a woman of strong character.*”).
2. A creed, or a profession of belief (*much like a “testimony”*).
3. A legal document declaring a person’s wishes regarding the disposal of their property when they die.

Expanding on this third definition, modern scholars also apply this word to a final speech a person gives from their deathbed (Numerous books written around the time of Christ were actually called “*The Testament of...*”). Probably the most famous Biblical example of this is the speech in which Jacob confers blessings on and makes predictions about each of his sons in Genesis 48 & 49. There are five key features in this type of testament:

1. The speaker knows that they are about to die.
2. The speaker gathers around their children or a similar audience.
3. The speaker impresses on their audience the need to remember their example and words of instruction.
4. The speaker makes predictions about the future.
5. The speaker gives moral exhortations and encouragements.

For the sake of discussion, let’s say that YOU are the person giving the testament. You are the one who knows you’re about to die, and have gathered your family, friends, kids, grandkids, etc. This is YOUR “last lecture.” These are YOUR parting words.

With respect to impressing on your loved ones the need to remember your example and words of instruction—

- What are some things about the way you lived your life that you want others to remember?
- Fill in the blank: “In my life, I always tried above all else to \_\_\_\_\_.”
- What is the ONE THING you never want your loved ones to forget?
- Give one piece of advice that might seem a little out of the ordinary.

With respect to the future—

- What is one thing you never want to have happen?
- What is the one thing you would speak into existence after you die?

With respect to moral exhortations and encouragements—

- What virtue would you extol above all others?
- What do you think is the best way to encourage those who come after you?

## Examination:

- Read **2 Peter 1:12-15**
  - In verse 12, Peter is essentially saying, “I know you already know everything I’m about to say to you—but I’m going to keep saying it again and again!” What is it that causes a person to do this? What drives us to repeat ourselves over and over again, even though we know we’ve said it a thousand times before?
    - When you were growing up, what did your parents repeat over and over again with you?
    - If you’re a parent or a grandparent—what message do you find yourself repeating with your kids or grandkids?
    - OK—take this question a step further. What is one thing you can begin saying to those you love...something you will ALWAYS remind them of...that you hope they will NEVER forget? [Start saying it today!]
  - Verses 13-15 point us to the fact that what Peter is about to say is his *testament*. He knows he is about to die, and is in essence “gathering” us around his bedside to impress upon us a few things he hopes we will never forget.
    - Before you read verses 16-21, what do you think he’s going to say?
    - Peter mentions in verse 14 that Jesus has “made clear” to him that he is about to die. Do you think he is referring to what Jesus said to him in **John 21:18-19**?
  
- Read **2 Peter 1:16-21**
  - These six verses (ultimately—the entire book of 2 Peter) are Peter’s *testament*. It’s his ONE THING. Before we look a little closer at the detail—summarize these six verses in a sentence or two.
  - How important ought it be to us that Peter was an “eyewitness” of the majesty of Jesus? Does it seem from the way Peter words verse 16 that the stories of the life of Jesus were already being viewed as “myth” or “fairy tale”?
  - Peter is clearly referring to “The Transfiguration” in verses 17-18. Read **Matthew 17:1-13** (also Mark 9:2-13; Luke 9:28-36). Is there anything in this account that you’ve never noticed before? Why do you think this event left such an unforgettable mark in Peter’s mind—so much so that he would mention it here?
  - When Peter mentions the “prophetic message,” he is referring to the Old Testament. What is he saying about it? (v. 19)
  - Why is it so important to Peter (“*Above all*”) that we understand that nothing in the Old Testament (“*no prophecy of Scripture*”) came about by the prophet’s own interpretation of things—but were inspired (“*carried along*”) by the Holy Spirit?
  - Peter uses a majestic metaphor in verse 19, when he talks about “*the day dawning*,” and “*the morning star rising in your heart*.” What do you think he means by this? When and how does this happen? What role does Scripture have in bringing this about?

## Application:

There is, obviously, one clear application to what Peter says in these ten verses: **We need to be reading Scripture with a heart of faith.** We can’t “pay attention” to it unless we know what it says. It can’t be “a light shining in a dark place,” unless we read it. If you’re not already, start a daily Bible reading plan today. Go to our church website ([kingstreetchurch.com](http://kingstreetchurch.com)), click “Watch & Read,” and sign up to receive our daily Bible readings. Do it today. Start today. It really matters.