

**HEAVEN'S HEALTH GUIDELINES**  
**(Part Three)**  
**"Strengthening Your Memory"**

Adapted from Warren Wiersbe in *Wiersbe's Expository Outlines On The New Testament*.  
Wheaton: Victor Books, 1992 (p.p. 763 - 764).

**Text:** 2 Peter 3.1 - 11 (in pew Bible p. 1205 / in large print Bible p. 1874)

**Intro:**

-**illust.** Mrs. Nielson's Amazing Recognition Of Me

-continue 3 part sermon series on *Heaven's Health Guidelines* in 2 Peter.

- Peter's 1<sup>st</sup> letter / epistle deals with problems from the outside (i.e. *persecution*).
- Peter's 2<sup>nd</sup> letter / epistle deals with problems from the inside (i.e. *false teachings & false practices*).
  - Peter has a strong desire to promote spiritually healthy followers of Jesus:

I am warning you ahead of time, dear friends. Be on guard so that you will not be carried away by the errors of these wicked people and lose your own secure footing. Rather, you must grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ (2 Peter 3.17).

-part one in series = Cultivating A Christian Character (ch. 1.3 – 11).

- have sound spiritual health by growing in your knowledge of Jesus and Christian character.
  - Add To Your Faith: moral excellence (v. 5), increasing knowledge of God (v. 5), self-control (v. 6), patient endurance (v. 6), godliness (v. 6), love for other Christians (v. 7), genuine love for everyone (v. 7).

-part two in series = Care About Your Care (ch. 2.3 – 11).

- have sound spiritual health by discriminately adopting good care.
  - Consequences Of Poor Care Vs. Good Care: the Lord knows how to deliver the godly out of temptations and to reserve the unjust under punishment for the day of judgment (v. 9).

**Take Home Point:**

-Jesus' followers have sound spiritual health when they *stimulate wholesome thinking and refresh their memories about God's eternal plans* (v. 1).

**1. APPEAL FOR A GOOD SPIRITUAL MEMORY**

-good health depends on stimulating our minds to wholesome thinking (v. 1).

- recall the words (v. 2), understand (v. 3), wicked **deliberately** forget (v. 5), do not forget (v. 8).
- Peter sent two letters to stimulate wholesome thinking and refresh memory (v. 1).

-“remembrance” is a key theme in this letter:

Therefore, I will always **remind** you about these things—even though you already know them and are standing firm in the truth you have been taught. And it is only right that I should keep on **reminding** you as long as I live. For our Lord Jesus Christ has shown me that I must soon leave this earthly life, so I will work hard to make sure you always **remember** these things after I am gone (2 Peter 1.12 - 15).

-Peter himself had been guilty of forgetting (Luke 22.61):

- denied Christ 3 times and *plunged into depression.*

-when we fail to develop a Christian character by adding the 7 virtues *we will suffer from a poor spiritual memory.*

But those who fail to develop in this way are short sighted or blind, **forgetting** that they have been cleansed from their old sins. So, dear brothers and sisters, work hard to prove that you really are among those God has called and chosen. Do these things, and you will never **fall away** (2 Peter 1.9, 10).

-Peter wanted us to have “*sincere / pure*” minds (v. 1).

- minds that are not confused by the false doctrines *named in chapter 2.*
- minds that are fixed upon God’s word *and seeking to please God.*
  - stakes high: will determine *our eternal & everlasting fate.*

## **2. FOCUS OF A GOOD SPIRITUAL MEMORY**

-the doctrine which Peter emphasizes for us to remember *is Christ’s return to the earth:*

- to set up His kingdom and then after 1,000 years *to usher in the new heavens and earth.*

-the world scoffs at the idea of *Christ’s return.* (v.v. 3, 4):

- do not believe that God will break into history *and interrupt the progress of time.*

-Peter cites several Old Testament examples *to prove that God does break into history:*

- creation & the flood (v.v. 5 , 6).

-Peter demonstrates that God will judge sin at a time *when humankind is confident that nothing is going to happen* (v. v. 4, 9, 10).

- humankind views history in terms of days and years *but to God, time is always present tense.*
- God will not be tardy *when the right time arrives.*
- God needs to intervene: fallen and frustrated world / *a stalled world.* (fuel & progress).

-Peter also demonstrates that God deliberately delays judgment *because he wants sinners to come to Christ and be saved from the coming wrath* (v. 9).

- “Day of the Lord” (v. 10) = period of judgment that includes “Great Tribulation”
- coming upon the entire earth once the church has been raptured to heaven.
  - Jesus will come as an unexpected “thief” (Matthew 24.43, 44).
  - when the world says “peace and safety” *then judgment will fall* (1 Thessalonians 5.3).

-God’s people will not be caught unprepared *when Christ comes to take them to heaven*.

- but the world will be surprised and unprepared for the judgments that follow.
- heavens will pass away with a terrible noise & heat, exposing everything on the earth to judgment (v. 10).
  - everything will come under God’s eye – what people have done in secret will then be unveiled.

### **Conclusion:**

1. Know what God wants.

- Peter has a strong desire to promote spiritually healthy followers of Jesus:

I am warning you ahead of time, dear friends. Be on guard so that you will not be carried away by the errors of these wicked people and lose your own secure footing. Rather, you must grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ (2 Peter 3.17).

-Jesus’ followers have sound spiritual health when they *stimulate wholesome thinking and refresh their memories about God’s eternal plans* (v. 1).

2. Know how to do what God wants.

-it is possible to have a pure and sincere mind *and yet have a bad memory*:

- need to be aroused regularly lest the Enemy find us asleep and take advantage of our spiritual lethargy.

“Watch out! Don’t let your hearts be dulled by carousing and drunkenness, and by the worries of this life. Don’t let that day catch you unaware, like a trap. For that day will come upon everyone living on the earth. Keep alert at all times. And pray that you might be strong enough to escape these coming horrors and stand before the Son of Man” (Luke 21.34 – 36).

-avoid false & flawed teaching.

- destructive heresies destroy and deceive many (2 Peter 2.3).
- know the Bible!!!

-personal conduct in view of the Lord's return (v. 11).

- make every effort to live a pure and blameless life *and be at peace with God* (v. 14).

For our present troubles are small and won't last very long. Yet they produce for us a glory that vastly outweighs them and will last forever! (2 Corinthians 4.17).

-look forward to the Day of the Lord *and hurry it along* (v. 11).

I heard a loud shout from the throne, saying, "Look, God's home is now among his people! He will live with them, and they will be his people. God himself will be with them. He will wipe every tear from their eyes, and there will be no more death or sorrow or crying or pain. All these things are gone forever" (Revelation 21.3, 4).

- pray "Thy Kingdom come" (Matthew 6.10):
- supporting evangelism & exercising penitence and obedience.

Jesus shall reign where'er the sun,  
Does His successive journeys run;  
His kingdom spread from shore to shore  
Till moons shall wax and wane no more.

3. Know that you will do it.

**-Closing Hymn:** #231 Jesus Shall Reign (all verses).

## BENEDICTION

May God give you more and more grace and peace as you grow in your knowledge of God and Jesus our Lord.

Now all glory to God, who is able to keep you from falling away and will bring you with great joy into his glorious presence without a single fault. <sup>25</sup> All glory to him who alone is God, our Savior through Jesus Christ our Lord. All glory, majesty, power, and authority are his before all time, and in the present, and beyond all time! Amen

(2 Peter 1.2 & Jude 24, 25).