

WHEN CHRISTIANITY GETS TWISTED

LIFE GROUP MATERIAL

Meeting THEME: How to keep from getting fooled

Prepare yourself. Pray for your Life Group's meeting. Read II Peter 1: 1 - 15

20.00 – 20.10 Start Last time Peter we read that Peter encouraged to practise some qualities. Try whether you are able to recall these. (The first was faith, the last was love). Then look at verses 5-7 to check.

20.10 – 20.15 Pray. Ask the Holy Spirit to teach you and build you up when you listen to God's Word

20.15 – 20.40 Bible passage: Read II Peter 1:1-15. Then read for a second time: II Peter 1:12-15

- 'Therefore' indicates that there is a preceding reason why Peter is so active to remind us of these qualities. What is that reason? Try to say it in your own words. Look at verses 8-11 for the answer.
- Peter is aware that his readers know what he is writing about (it is nothing new for them) and that they are even standing strong in the truth of the Gospel. When Peter says he wants to 'stir us up by way of reminder' (NIV: 'refresh your memory'), the word used literally means something like 'awaken you', 'keep you from falling asleep'. Here to forget is similar to falling asleep. And to remember is similar to being awake.
 - Can you give examples from the Bible where people were forgetting & falling asleep, or needed reminder and awakening?
 - Look at Genesis 3:1. What strikes you? (Recall what happened when Jesus was tempted in the desert)
- The word Peter uses for his body is 'tent' or 'tabernacle'. And the word he uses for his departure is 'exodus'. Soon Peter will no longer live in a tent, he will no longer be a sojourner. He will complete his exodus and enter in into his promised land; the house where God, where Jesus dwells as king. Then those on earth will no longer have this apostle and eyewitness of Jesus among them. What exactly is Peter aiming for while he is still living to achieve for after his departure?
- Read verse 16. The Gospel is not a myth, a story (without historical basis), it is about facts, history. Stories require continuous update, renewal. History requires first and foremost reminder, recalling; we should not forget about what happened. In the book of Deuteronomy (see for instance Deuteronomy 8) Moses makes every effort that God's people may not forget about all that God has done for them and may be able to recall God's law. The Psalms are to be sung and prayed as a means to remind ourselves of all that God has done for us (before or after the LG-meeting you might f.i. look at Psalm 103:1-5, Psalm 78:1-8, Psalm 106:106:1-13) As in Proverbs 3:1, Peter's concern is that his readers may not forget his teaching and be led astray.
 - God has provided means to help us remember. For example: the sacraments, the book of Psalms (singing and reading it, we are helped to remember), the Bible, the preaching of the word, the fellowship, the creeds, our mind that is able to memorise. What – in our culture – might keep us from staying awake, from remembering (and from using such means)?

20.40 – 20.50 Digging deeper

Take some moments of silence. Is there anything you could start or stop with, looking at what you learnt?

20.50 – 21.00 End the Life Group meeting with praying together.