

Dear Lillian Methodist Church family,

Scholars tell us the Apostle Peter wrote II Peter from a prison cell in Rome. He knows that he will soon die. "I know that the putting off of my body will be soon, as our Lord Jesus Christ has made clear to me." (II Peter 1:14) Because we hold a man's final words with high regard, we should pay special attention to this epistle. First, it is the inspired Word of God; second, it is Simon Peter's last chance to keep his promise to Jesus, to "feed My sheep."

This is Peter's second letter to a group of churches in Asia Minor (present day Turkey). Because this will be his last, now would be the time to change or revise anything he has previously told them. He does not. Instead, he reminds them of the truth of his previous teaching. "And I will make every effort so that after my departure (death) you may be able at any time to recall these things."

What things? That Peter was an eyewitness to the life, ministry and resurrection of Jesus Christ and his witness about Jesus is true. That false teachers would soon arise from within the church and lead many astray. That the accounts of fallen angels, Noah, Sodom and Gomorrah, and Balaam's talking donkey were true accounts of God's judgment in the past which confirmed God's righteous judgment in the future.

He reminded them of the sure return of Christ and the scoffers that would deny it. Jesus is not slow in His return. He is patient, "not wishing that any should perish." Peter

even commends the Apostle Paul who would also soon die at the hands of the Romans.

Peter kept his promise to Jesus, made on the shores of the Sea of Galilee, thirty years before. He fed the Lord's sheep the truth, even from prison. Peter lived at a time much like ours today. Lots of religion and religious people but a relative few who knew the True and living God and kept His word. Peter's words to the people on the Day of Pentecost still ring true today "Save yourselves from this crooked generation."(Acts 2:40)

In the year 2025, let us be reminded by the words of the fallible, ordinary, totally human Apostle Peter: "The Lord is not slow to fulfill His promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all shall come to repentance."(II Peter 3: 9)

See y'all Sunday
Perry Cunningham
Lay Leader