**A YEAR-END RECKONING**

2 Peter 1:12-15

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**INTRODUCTION**

Peter tells his readers that he would be “negligent” if he did not remind them of certain things. I would also be negligent if I did not remind you of the same things. Thus, today, on this last Sunday of 2012, I will try to remind you of what he reminded his readers. As Peter wrote, I will say the same thing: I know you already know these things and are firmly established in your faith. I am just reminding you of their importance.

1. **I WANT TO STIR YOU UP (TO REMEMBER THE PROMISES OF GOD).**
2. We are to be **participants** in the divine nature (v. 4).
3. We have escaped the corruption caused by **worldly** desires (v. 4).
4. We are to be **diligent** to make every effort to do these things (v. 4).

*Sometimes, we need to be stirred up (refreshed) in our hearts and minds so that we will remember what God has already promised to us. It is like chocolate syrup at the bottom of a glass of milk. Every child knows you have to stir it up to flavor the milk.*

1. **I WANT YOU TO REMEMBER WHAT TO ADD TO YOUR FAITH.**
2. Add **goodness** and knowledge to your faith (v. 5).
3. Add **self-control**, perseverance, and godliness to your faith (v. 6).
4. Add brotherly **kindness** and **love** to your faith (v. 7).

*Like that milk I mentioned earlier, some things just taste better with something added to it. The same is true with faith. Our faith is just much more enjoyable with these things added to it.*

1. **I WANT YOU TO REMEMBER EVEN AFTER I AM GONE.**
2. These things are to increase in us **every** **day** (v. 8).
3. There is **danger** if these things are missing in your life (v. 9).
4. You will be blinded to what is coming in your future.
5. You will forget you have been purged of your sins.
6. Be increasingly **eager** to be sure of your being a Child of God (v. 10).

*Life is short, so live it fully for God. Make sure that these things increase in your life.*

**CONCLUSION**

Some things are too important to forget. Have you been considering these things this past year? Have you been remembering what is important in life? It is always wise to have a reckoning of our progress when we come to the end of a year. It reminds us to put first things first in our lives. Thus, we make resolutions to do better, to be better, in the new year that is at hand. Will you remember these things? My purpose today is to stir you up, to refresh your memory, so that you will use your time wisely. I want you to remember these things even after I am gone.

*“I sing a simple song of love—to my Savior, to my Jesus.*

*I’m grateful for the things You’ve done—my loving Savior, my precious Jesus.*

*My heart is glad that You’ve called me Your own.*

*There’s no place I’d rather be—than in Your arms of love, in Your arms of love,*

*Holding me still, holding me near in Your arms of love.”*