

9-26-76

It's always a joy for a teacher sees his students do fine work in carrying on the tradition we've tried to give them in the seminary. It's also a joy to come back to this church. I notice it says on March 6, 1955 in a downpour of rain the cornerstone was laid. The first time I ever heard of Horsham - I'm not sure whether I slept(?) spoke in the firehall or whether my wife carried a flannelgraph presentation and I went along to carry the boards -- I know we came up together to the firehall while the meetings were being held there. It's hard to realize though that it's 20 years since this lovely building was dedicated.

Now this morning I would like to open the Bible to the second epistle of Peter. There are so many wonderful epistles by the Apostle Paul we are constantly referring to him, and we go to his epistles and find the marvellous presentations of the grace of Christ and of the way in which Jesus gave His life that we might be saved through Him. We have a tendency to forget Peter except as we look at the Gospel story. But here we have two of the finest, most valuable books in the whole NT - 1 and 2 Peter. The First is probably better known than the Second, but the Second epistle was written rather near the end of Peter's life and it is interesting to see the same teaching that Paul gave, Peter gave also.

When the Reformation began to be well under way, somebody wrote to Martin Luther from Rome and said it was being said in Rome that we had to get Paul out of the Bible or we could not possibly defeat the teachings of the Reformers! Well, I think they'd have to get Peter out too! Because Peter is just as clear and strong on the great gospel message as Paul is.

I want to look with you at the first ch. of Peter's second epistle. This first chapter seems to divide naturally into four parts. First, Peter's greeting the Christians. In this greeting he gives them he stresses what God has done for them. Second, Peter's exhortation to Christians and in this he stresses what we should do as Christians. Third, Peter's witness to Christ, and fourth Peter's witness to the Bible. Those are very important subjects and subjects Peter explains in a way that is not done anywhere else quite the same in the entire Scripture.

It is interesting how Peter starts this section: "Simon Peter a servant and an apostle of Jesus Christ." The First epistle begins with the words Peter and Apostle of Jesus Christ. That's the way Paul usually starts his epistles "Paul an Apostle of Jesus Christ." Here Peter puts in an extra word . . . Simon Peter a servant and an Apostle of Christ. I wonder if toward the end of Peter's life people were beginning to look to him as the leader of the Apostles, look to him prince of the church and make claims for him such as were made in subsequent years. I don't know whether this began as early as that or not.