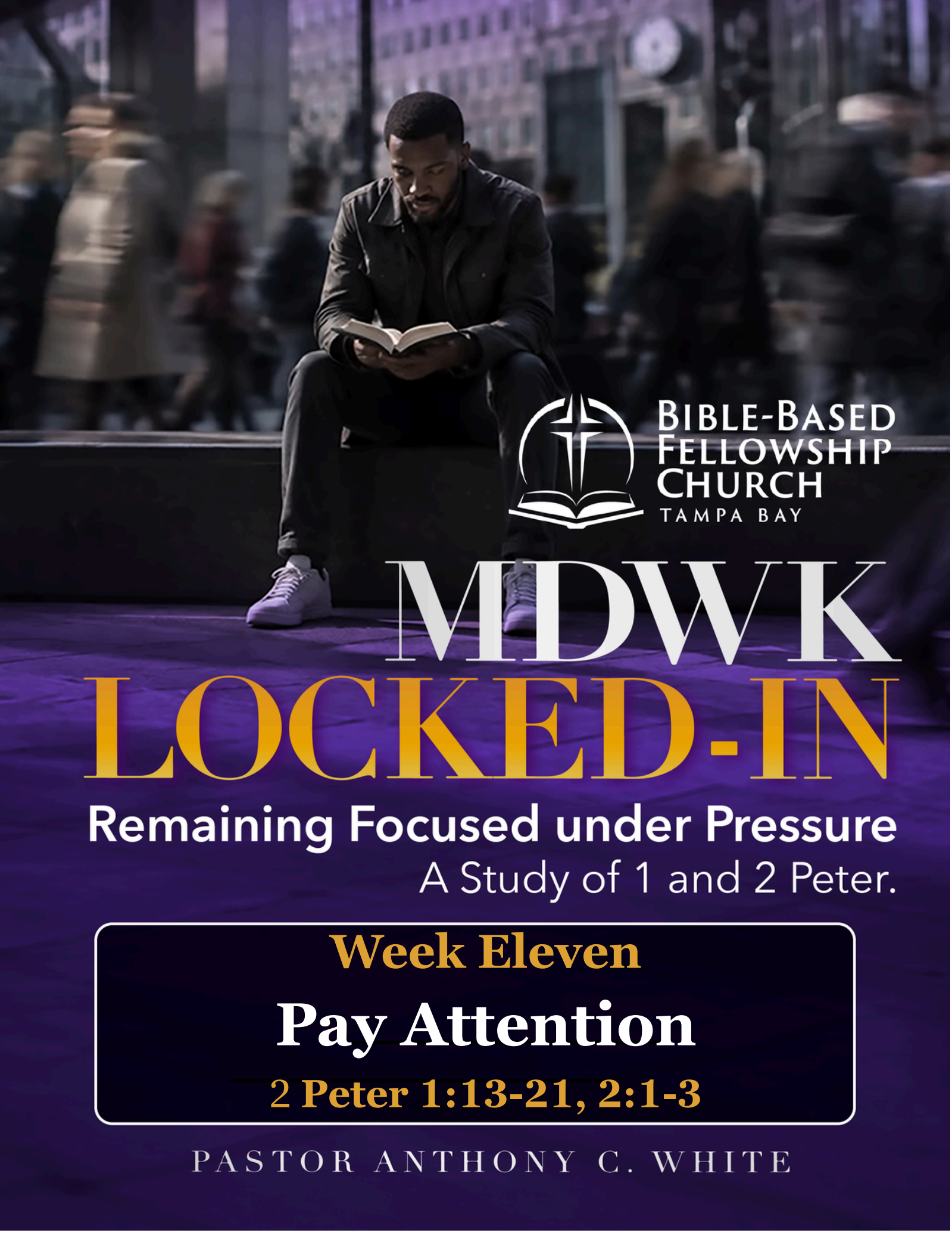


BIBLE-BASED FELLOWSHIP CHURCH
TAMPA BAY

MDWK
LOCKED-IN

Remaining Focused under Pressure

A Study of 1 and 2 Peter.

Week Eleven

Pay Attention

2 Peter 1:13-21, 2:1-3

PASTOR ANTHONY C. WHITE

What Has Your Attention?

On December 29, 1972, Eastern Air Lines Flight 401 departed from New York for Miami on a clear, dark night. While just minutes from landing in Miami the pilot lowered the landing gear but only two of the three green lights came on. The nose gear light stayed dark. The gear could have been down with a burned-out bulb, or it could have been stuck.

The crew did the right thing and called off the landing, climbed to 2,000 feet, set the autopilot, and went to work on the problem. All eyes of the cockpit crew were fixed on the little bulb. While they worked on it it, the autopilot slipped off and the plane began a slow and gentle descent over the Everglades, where there are no lights or horizon.

One crew member glanced at the instruments and said, “We did something to the altitude.” Seconds later the jet crashed into the swamp. Of the 176 people on board, 101 died. The crew were all trained and experienced with a cockpit full of instruments telling the truth. They did not lack experience, but they gave their attention to the wrong thing.

Peter is asking us to consider, what has our attention? Many things compete for our attention every day: phone calls, text messages, email, social media, and other notifications. Then there are the voices we intentionally invite into our lives: the television, radio, podcasts, social media influencers, and people. It is easy to respond to what clamors the loudest and neglect what is most important.

The problem isn't simply the many things competing for our attention, but what we are paying attention to. In the lesson tonight, the one thing we must not neglect.

Study Objectives

1. Recognize how what captures our attention influences our spiritual growth.

2. Prioritize God's Word as our source of truth and guidance.

3. Discern truth from deception by evaluating what we hear against Scripture.

2 Peter 1:13-21, 2:1-3 ESV

13 I think it right, as long as I am in this body, to stir you up by way of reminder, **14** since I know that the putting off of my body will be soon, as our Lord Jesus Christ made clear to me. **15** And I will make every effort so that after my departure you may be able at any time to recall these things.

Christ's Glory and the Prophetic Word

16 For we did not follow cleverly devised myths when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses of his majesty. **17** For when he received honor and glory from God the Father, and the voice was borne to him by the Majestic Glory, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased," **18** we ourselves heard this very voice borne from heaven, for we were with him on the holy mountain. **19** And we have the prophetic word more fully confirmed, to which you will do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts, **20** knowing this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture comes from someone's own interpretation. **21** For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.

False Prophets and Teachers

2 But false prophets also arose among the people, just as there will be false teachers among you, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies, even denying the Master who bought them, bringing upon themselves swift destruction. 2 And many will follow their sensuality, and because of them the way of truth will be blasphemed. 3 And in their greed they will exploit you with false words. Their condemnation from long ago is not idle, and their destruction is not asleep.

Table Talk

What Has Your Attention?

Reflect on the passage read in 2 Peter and the opening story discussed. Discuss the questions as a group and choose the best answer to share.

1. Peter describes God's word as a lamp shining in a dark place. Discuss this reference to a dark place. In what ways have you experienced the world as a dark place?

   _____

   _____

   _____

2. What is the bulb that most diverts your close attention from God's word? Discuss why this is and the impact that results.

   _____

   _____

   _____

3. If no prophesy of Scripture comes from someone's own interpretation, explain why there are so many different translations of the Bible. How does one interpret Scripture correctly?

   _____

   _____

   _____

4. Peter warns that there will be false teachers among the church who will bring in destructive heresies. What are some of those heresies today and how do they pose a threat?

   _____

   _____

   _____



Summary Challenge — Pay Attention!

Peter reminds us that God's Word is a lamp shining in a dark place. But having access to the light means little if we fail to pay attention to it.

Three Truths to Remember

1. Remember the _____. Don't allow distractions to cause you to forget what God has revealed. (2 Peter 1:13–15)

2. Pay close attention to the _____. Allow God's Word to guide your thoughts, decisions, and actions. (2 Peter 1:16–21)

3. Be careful of _____ _____ . Evaluate every voice and message against Scripture. (2 Peter 2:1–3)

Bible Memory Verse

2 Peter 1:20-21 (ESV)

[20] Knowing this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture comes from someone's own interpretation. [21] For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.

_____

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_____

The Primacy of Scripture



Notes:


Black Sea
BITHYNIA and PONTUS
N
GALATIA
ASIA
Antioch
CAPPADOCIA
Ephesus
Colossae
Iconium
Lystra
Derbe
PISIDIA
Tarsus
CILICIA and SYRIA
Antioch
Asia Minor in the First Century
Salamis
Paphos
CYPRUS
Mediterranean Sea
0 200 Miles
0 200 Kilometers
Damascus
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GIVE

NEW HERE?

If tonight was your first MDWK with us, thank you for being here. We don't take lightly that you chose to spend your Wednesday with us. We pray you felt welcomed, encouraged, and strengthened. We'd love to see you again soon, you're always welcome at The Base!