

McCoy Memorial Baptist Church

Date: June 28, 2020

Summer Quarter: Zealous for the Truth

Today's Lesson: "Trusting God's Sure Word"

INTRODUCTION:

- Peter made a transition from focusing on the work of God in believers' lives (3-15) to the Word of God as the instrument of nurture (16-21). This section on the Word of God climaxes in a major statement on revelation & inspiration, reaching a high-water mark in ver. 21, Peter's tribute to the Holy Spirit's role in God-breathed Scripture.

- It is important to distinguish between the written Word (the Bible) and the incarnate Word (Christ). They are both major avenues of God's revelation (cp. Ps. 19:7-11; John 1:18; Heb. 1:2) and therefore both come into focus throughout the remainder of this chapter.

- A Christian's faith does not rest on "cleverly invented stories" (*mythois*); as did the doctrines of the false teachers Peter attacked (2 Peter 2). See 1 Timothy 1:4; 4:7; 2 Timothy 4:4; Titus 1:14; 3:9. A Christian's faith rests on historical facts, which apostolic **eyewitnesses** corroborated.

THE MAJESTY OF GOD'S INCARNATE WORD (vss. 16-18)

Peter focuses on the Lord's return: "the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ." References in 1st Peter (1:5, 7, 13; 4:13; 5:1). In Peter's preaching during the days of the early church he was passionately committed to the doctrine of Christ's Second Coming (Acts 2:32-33, 36; 3:16, 20-21).

But how does the transfiguration argue that the Lord will come again with power? The transfiguration was designed to show the 3 apostles ... Peter, James, & John, what Christ would be like in His glory, to give them a foretaste of His kingdom (cf. Mt. 16:28-17:2; Mk. 9:1-8; Lk. 9:28-36). This was a glorious demonstration they could never forget.

1. Christ's Majesty: They Saw (vs. 16b)
2. Voice of God: They heard: (vss. 17, 18)
3. See 1 Jn. 1:1-3. John's speaking of what the apostles experienced (heard, saw, touched) during Christ's earthly ministry.

As Peter wrote of that unforgettable transfiguration experience, he was reminded of another form of God's Word, the written Word, given by prophets.

Peter's message rests on two solid foundations: (1) The voice from God at the transfiguration (of which the apostles were eye & ear witnesses; cp. Matt. 16: 28-17:8) and (2) the still more significant testimony of Scripture (vv. 19-21)

THE ORIGIN OF GOD'S WRITTEN WORD (vss. 19-21)

1. The Certainty of Belief (vs. 19)

A. "The word of the prophets"

Refers not just to OT major & minor prophets, but to the entire OT. Of course, all of the OT was written by the "prophets" in the truest sense, since they spoke and wrote God's Word, which was the task of a prophet, & they looked forward, in some sense, to the coming Messiah (Lk. 24:27)

B. "Made more (very) certain"

This translation could indicate that the eyewitness acc't. of Christ's majesty at the Transfiguration fulfilled and so confirmed the Scriptures, & this bolsters our faith. However, the Gr. word order is crucial in that it does not say that. It says, "And we have more (very) certain the prophetic word." That original arrangement of the sentence supports the interpretation that Peter is ranking Scripture over experience.

2. The Origin of Prophecy (vss. 20, 21)

A. **Verse 20** - Two major views of this verse:

- 1) No prophecy is to be privately or independently interpreted (cp. false teachers in 3:16). It indicates that no prophecy comes from any private source (namely, the prophets themselves.)
- 2) No prophecy originated thru or by the prophets themselves. Two arguments support the latter: the preceding verses (16-19) & following verse (21) indicate this this is probably to be preferred.

Peter's point is not so much about how to interpret Scripture, but rather how Scripture originated, and what its source was.

B. **Verse 21** -

Prophecy never had its origin "**in the will of man**"

The emphasis ... no part of Scripture was ever at any time produced because men wanted it so. The Bible is not the product of human effort.

Men spoke from God ... "**carried along by the Holy Spirit**"

They were carried along or borne along by the H. Spirit. The Spirit is the divine author and originator, the producer of Scripture (cp. 2 Tim. 3:16).

So, in literal, biblical terminology inspiration is "the process by which Spirit-moved writers recorded God-breathed writings."