

The Certainty of God's Word

2 Pt. 1:12 - 21



In His first sermon he preached, He appealed to the testimony of the O.T. prophecies to establish the Messiah-ship of Jesus.



To explain the coming of the H.S. Peter quoted Joel 2:28

- To support the fact that Jesus had raised from the grave, he quoted Ps. 16:8 ff
- With reference to Christ being exalted to the right hand of God, he quoted 2 Sm. 7:12 – 16
- This sermon set the pattern for preaching to Jews throughout the book of Acts.

I. The Importance of Being Certain

- Christianity is an historic religion
- It's truths happened in time space, history.
- Jesus was a real person, who lived at a certain time and in a certain place.
 - It is claimed that he was born of a Virgin.
 - That He died on a cross and was buried in a tomb.
 - To raise three days later and ascend into Heaven to be with his Father.

The Evangelist of the first century proclaimed the gospel with the certainty of being true.

- Writing now as an old man of Faith, Peter was anxious to recall the gospel facts into the minds & hearts of his readers

2 Pt. 1:12 – 15, “For this reason I will not be negligent to remind you always of these things, though you know and are established in the present truth. ¹³ Yes, I think it is right, as long as I am in this tent, to stir you up by reminding *you*, ¹⁴ knowing that shortly I *must* put off my tent, just as our Lord Jesus Christ showed me. ¹⁵ Moreover I will be careful to ensure that you always have a reminder of these things after my decease.”

Today skepticism is every where concerning the reliability of the Gospel Message.

- Many liberal theologians flatly deny the factuality of the Virgin birth and Jesus Resurrection from the dead.
- They say that the Bible is generally untrustworthy as a source of actual events.

**This is a far cry from the
certainty of**

the 1st Century writers. That said:

Jn. 6:69, “we believe & know that you are the Holy one of God.”

2 Tm. 1:12, “I am not ashamed, because I know in whom I have believed, and I am convinced that He is able to guard what I have entrusted to him, for that day.”

Hebs. 11:1, “now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see.”

I Jn. 1:1 – 5, “That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, concerning the Word of life-- ² the life was manifested, and we have seen, and bear witness, and declare to you that eternal life which was with the Father and was manifested to us-- ³ that which we have seen and heard we declare to you, that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship *is* with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ. ⁴ And these things we write to you that your joy may be full. ⁵ This is the message which we have heard from Him and declare to you, that God is light and in Him is no darkness at all.

II. The Basis of Peter's Certainty

**First, Peter was an eye witness
to the Divine majesty of Jesus**

2 Pt. 1:16, “For we did not follow cunningly
devised fables when we made known
to you the power and coming of our Lord
Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses
of His majesty.”

On that occasion, Peter along with James & John witness Jesus Transfiguration before them.

Jesus face “shone like the sun” and his clothing “became as white as the light.”

The three Apostles also saw Moses & Elijah, the great lawgiver and the outstanding prophet, as they appeared before them talking with Jesus the son of Man about his impending death. (Lk. 9:31)

- This sight burned itself into the memory of Peter.
- It along with many other events to which he witnessed, left no doubt in His mind as to who Jesus was.
- Peter believed that Jesus was the Messiah, the promised one of God.

Second, not only saw the Transfiguration of Jesus, at that moment, He heard the Father's voice speak to identify Jesus as His Son."

2 Pt. 1:17 – 18, “For He received from God the Father honor and glory when such a voice came to Him from the Excellent Glory: “This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.”¹⁸ And we heard this voice which came from heaven when we were with Him on the holy mountain.”

Third, Peter had the testimony and promises of God's Prophetic Word about the coming Messiah.

2 Peter 1:19, “And so we have the prophetic word confirmed, which you do well to heed as a light that shines in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts”

III. Giving Heed to Scriptures

How can we be Certain of this, being truth?

Peter gives us the answer in

2 Pt. 1:19 – 21, “And so we have the prophetic word confirmed, which you do well to heed as a light that shines in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts; ²⁰ knowing this first, that no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation, ²¹ for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke *as they were* moved by the Holy Spirit.”

1. We have the testimony of the Word of God

- Which asserts & logically proves it's statements as being Historically accurate.

2. We have the testimony of the Eye Witnesses

Through their writings we can indirectly experience the wonder of Jesus

Have you experienced it for yourself?

What are we to do?

1. Gather the Evidence about Jesus.
2. Evaluate the Evidence about Jesus.
3. Come to a Conclusion, for ourselves as to what we believe.
4. Realize that the Bible is a reliable & historically accurate account of Jesus Life, Death, Burial, Resurrection & Ascension.



Conclusion:

DISCERNING THE WILL OF GOD

- Faith & knowledge are never in opposition with one another within the Word.
- Learn to Value the reliability of the Word of God, trust in it's promises, follow it's directives
- If you do, you will find that you have something to hold too throughout all Eternity.