

August 27th A.D. 2017

10:30 AM Worship

Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, to God who alone is wise, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen” (I Timothy 1:17)

Prelude

Announcements & Silent Meditation

***Call to Worship & Salutation**

***Invocation**

***Hymn # 101**

“Come Thou Almighty King”

Our Confession of Faith

Canons of Dort (insert)

Hymn # 523

“My Hope Is in the Lord”

***Reading of Holy Scriptures**

II Peter 1: 16 – 21 (p. 1192)

All flesh is like grass.....and all God's people said:

“Amen!”

Congregational Prayer

***Hymn # 300**

“Blessing and Honor and Glory and Power”

Sermon

Rev. Wes Brice

“The Sure Word of God”

Part I

***Hymn # 296**

“All Hail the Power of Jesus Name”

Giving of Our Tithes and Offerings

***Offertory Prayer**

***The Doxology #731**

***Benediction**

Postlude

Church Officers:Elders: Pastor Phil Poe and Jim Snyder

Deacon: Elton Dockter

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Check out: www.sermonaudio.com

Something to Think About: “When we shrink our theological vocabulary, we shrink our theological understanding.” (L. Ryken on modernizing Bible versions)

Sunday	Aug	27	<i>Fellowship Dinner & Afternoon Service</i>
Wed	Aug	30	<i>4:00 PM Catechism Class (Section B)</i>
Sunday	Sept	3	<i>Lord's Supper - No Fellowship Meal</i>
Wed	Sept	6	<i>7:15 PM Critique on Theonomy & Dominionism</i>
Monday	Sept	11	<i>6:45 PM Women's Bible Study – Chapter 3</i>

Pray for Rick Bergeson traveling to Washington State for a couple of weeks.

Pray for all students getting ready to go back to school. Pray for Lynae Dobbins & Amelia Hamman as they return to MSU.

Pray for Ryan Snyder traveling from PA to visit family.

Pray for all the churches in the Northern Plains Classis.

Pray for Mike & Amy Lassley to sell their house in MS & move to Watertown.

For the class on Wednesday night begin reading the following: Acts 15, II Cor. 3; Philippians 3, the Book of Romans, Galatians, Hebrews. This class is for everyone.

WELCOME to Rev. Wesley Brice and wife, Ginger, who are here from the church plant in Dickinson, ND. Please stay for the second service following the meal time.

THANK YOU to Allen & Diana Dockter for doing the roast beef again and to all the women for providing the sides and desserts. Thank you to the men who also contributed paper products.

Sure Word of God – Pat 1

2 Peter 1:16-21 *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. 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." And we heard this voice which came from heaven when we were with Him on the holy mountain. 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; knowing this first, that no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation, for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit.*

Being mindful that it was 500 years ago this year 2017 that God began to bring about a reformation in the Holy Catholic Church. Since, in this passage, Peter is establishing the trustworthiness of the Holy Scriptures. I thought is good to speak on the surety of God's written Word. He plainly and clearly says, "**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." Notice especially that he uses plural **we**, thus he include all the apostles. This assures us that as we read the writings of the Apostles they had indeed been given by, what we refer to as, "**apostolic authority**". This is what we mean when we confess with the writers of the Apostle's Creed or the Nicene Creed that we believe in the holy catholic and the apostolic church. That is, we believe in the church as it was established by the Apostles under the guidance of the Holy Spirit. We need to always be mindful of the promise Jesus made when He said to the Apostles, "*But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and **bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you.***" (John 14:26) Always be mindful when you read the Gospels, the apostles did not, in and of themselves remember the very words, the very teachings of Jesus, it was the Holy Spirit who brought to their remembrance all things that Jesus said. When we read that **all scripture** is given by inspiration he is not referring only to the Old Testament, Peter is including the writings of the New Testament. When he writes "knowing this first, that no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation, for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit;" it must also be understood that he is including the writings of the New Testament. He makes this clear when he wrote; "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." Two things I want us to observe from the passage; First the glory and evidence that was manifested in Christ Jesus our Lord on the Mount of transfiguration and then Peter will explain why we can have full confidence in the sureness of the Word of God this afternoon.

A. Eyewitnesses to the magnificent glory of our Lord

1. The apostolic authority is founded upon the special anointing of the Holy Spirit and upon the fact that they were eyewitnesses of glory of our Lord (see John 1:14)
 - a. The writings of the apostles are not cunningly devised fables.
 - (1) They are not mere "stories or fairy tales" founded upon "once upon a time" with a moral lesson connected
 - (2) They are actual accounts of historic events that took place in time and space
 - b. This truth applies to the whole of Scripture history beginning with Genesis and ending with the Book of Revelation
 - (1) In Genesis One we are given the only eyewitness account of creation.
 - (2) In Genesis One we are given the history of creation and man's beginnings by the very one who spoke the worlds into existence
2. In the Books of the New Testament we are given historic accounts of the birth, life, death, resurrection and times of Jesus Christ by which we see the mighty power of God in the coming of our Lord and Savior, as Peter writes "*when we **made known** to you **the power and coming** of our Lord Jesus Christ.*"
 - a. Peter assures us that it was not based upon fables and made up stories when the apostles made known to the church how the **power of God** was active in the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ
 - b. The Greek word translated "make known" carries with it the meaning of "revealing a new revelation or to reveal a factual truth"
3. The miraculous conception of the virgin born Seed of woman was indeed a revealed evidence of the power of God
 - a. When Luke writes that when Mary asked "*how can this be*" the angel answered and said, "*The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Highest will overshadow you; therefore, also, that Holy One who is to be born will be called the Son of God;*" (Luke 1:35) proving that this was not a cunningly devised fable
 - (1) The infant Jesus was conceived in the womb of the virgin by the power of the Holy Spirit
 - (2) And what is even more amazing; it was prophesied by the prophet Micah some 600 years earlier that that infant would be born in Bethlehem thus it was an actual fulfillment of God's prophetic word.

Mic 5:2 *But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of you shall come forth to Me the One to be Ruler in Israel, whose goings forth are from of old, from everlasting.*

- (3) God was working powerfully even using Caesar Augustus, a pagan ruler of Rome, to bring about the birth of the promised Messiah in the town of Bethlehem

Luke 2:1 *And it came to pass in those days that a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered.*

Luke 2:3-4, 6 *So all went to be registered, everyone to his own city. - - - Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David. - - - So it was, that while they were there, the days were completed for her to be delivered.*

- (4) Thus Jesus was not born in Bethlehem by accident but by the divine power of God's providence working out His purpose in all things

B. Secondly we are told that they were eyewitnesses of our Lord's majesty

1. Peter here is referring to the transfiguration of our Lord on the mountain

- a. Just prior to this incident in all of the three synoptic gospel records that Jesus said that some of those standing there that day would see the Kingdom of God

- (1) Just prior to the record of the transfiguration Jesus said; *"Truly I say to you, there are some of those who are standing here who shall not taste death until they see the Son of Man coming in His kingdom."* (Matt. 16:28)
- (2) The question arises how and when did this take place? – some of you standing here will not taste of death until you see the Son of Man in kingdom splendor and glory.
- (3) Then we read; *Now after six days Jesus took Peter, James, and John his brother, led them up on a high mountain by themselves; and He was transfigured before them. His face shone like the sun, and His clothes became as white as the light.* (Matt 17:1-2)

- b. Peter explains to us that they were **"eyewitnesses of His majesty."**

- (1) Then Peter tells us that our Lord received from God the Father the honor and glory due the Son.
- (2) We read on from Peter the very words the Father spoke from His *Excellent Glory*: *"This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased."*
- (3) Peter assures us that they *"heard this voice which came from heaven when we were with Him on the holy mountain."*

- c. What we understand here is that they saw Jesus in the glory which will be His when He comes again.

- (1) His very countenance changed, His face shown brighter than the noon day sun
- (2) We are told that Moses and Elijah appeared in glory and spoke of His decease which He was about to accomplish at Jerusalem. (Lk. 9:30-31)
- (3) We have it revealed to us here that the Old Testament saints understood the purpose of His first coming.

- d. This is what the Apostle John wrote about when he said, "And we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth," (Jn. 1:14)

- (1) The saw Jesus changed into the radiant light that reveals the brightness of the Father
- (2) This helps us to understand what is meant when Jesus is referred to as the "brightness of His glory and the "express image of the Father. (cf. Heb. 1:3)

- b. Peter wants us to know that he saw Jesus in the glory and brightness that we will behold when we dwell in the new heavens on the new earth.

Rev 21:22-23 *But I saw no temple in it, for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple. The city had no need of the sun or of the moon to shine in it, **for the glory of God illuminated it. The Lamb is its light.***

What have we learned this morning? All this is why we can say the Christian Scriptures are the sole infallible rule of faith and practice.

God's word is the actual history of God working His purpose and will in the history of mankind

That the apostles were eyewitnesses of the very one who was the promised Messiah

That Jesus was revealed as more than just a man or just a prophet when they saw Him in all His glory as "God manifested in the flesh" (2 Tim 3:16)

That there is, once again, coming a day when; *"Son of Man will appear in heaven, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory."* (Matt 24:30)

And that we have this sure hope, that in God's time we too will see our Lord in all His glory, power and grace on the day when *"at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father."*