

2 Peter 1:16–21

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.

¹⁷ 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.

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;

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.

Sola Scriptura ***2 Peter 1:16-21***

INTRO:

October 31, 2017 will be the 500th Anniversary of a world changing event. On “All Hallows Eve” October 31, 1517, Dr. Martin Luther, an Augustinian Monk who was also the professor of Bible at Wittenberg University, nailed 95 theses to the door of the Wittenberg Castle Church. The major issue addressed in the proposals was indulgences. However the greater issue was the authority of the pope versus the authority of Scripture.

Why is the Scripture authoritative above all other earthly authorities? First, we submit to the Word of God, the Bible, because of Scriptures like, **Psalm 138:2 (ESV)**. ***“I bow down toward your holy temple and give thanks to your name for your steadfast love and your faithfulness, for you have exalted above all things your name and your word.”*** Second, we submit to the authority of Scripture because it is the very word of God. This is why we will look at **2 Peter 1:16-20** today.

I. Peter Heard the Word of God and the voice of God (16-18)

II. We Have a Better Word (19-21)

I. Peter Heard the Word of God and the voice of God (16-18)

2 Peter 1:16-18 ***“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”

A. The Apostle Peter wants us, his readers, both in the first century and now, to realize that he actually was there when God incarnate walked on planet earth. He brings us to the Mount of Transfiguration when he, Peter, actually heard the voice of God. This is what he heard God say:

vs.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.’ And we heard this voice which came from heaven when we were with Him on the holy mountain”

We often wonder what the voice of God sounds like. Like Moses, Peter heard God’s voice from heaven.

B. We are prone to think, “Wow, can it get better than this? Peter said, Yes it can and it does.

II. We Have a Better Word (19-21)

2 Peter 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; 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.”

A. Why do we need to submit to, know, and live the written word of God? First, we need to obey it because it is even better than to hear God’s voice from heaven.

v.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;”

The word of God through the prophets is more certain than the word directly from heaven heard by a man. Frequently in Koine Greek comparatives can be taken as a superlative. It is better to have the written word than to actually be standing at Peter’s elbow and hearing the very voice of God from heaven.

1. Peter will not allow us to think we are somehow hampered because God has not vocally talked with us. He says we have the written word we need to treasure it, and learn it, and heed it because it is a lamp to guide our lives in the darkness of this world.

2. We must hold to the Word of God and follow it until the Lord Jesus returns.
Revelation 22:16 at the end of the book of the Revelation, the Lord Jesus Himself said,

“I, Jesus, have sent My angel to testify to you these things in the churches. I am the Root and the Offspring of David, the Bright and Morning Star.”

B. Second, we must pay attention to the Word of God because it did not come from the volition of man.

v.20 ***“knowing this first, that no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation,”***

What does this mean? This is an important understanding. We need to know this in the first place. The Word of God was not ***“unloosed”*** by someone’s own choice. **[1]** Some think this mean only the Pope or a properly authorized person can interpret the Bible. This is not the point here. **[2]** Second, it may mean that the prophet’s interpretation is the only one that matters. **[3]** However, it can mean that no one decided to sit down and produce the Scriptures.

C. Third, we must pay attention to the Word of God because God Himself produced it through the Holy Spirit.

v.21 ***“FOR prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit.”***

The Word of God did not come into existence because human beings decided to write it. God Himself produced it

v.21 ***“But men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.”***

The Apostle Paul explained this in different language in 2 Timothy 3:16-17.

“All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, [in order] that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.”

Applications

1. Historically, we cannot know we are saved apart from the hope the Bible gives us.
2. Personally, how would we respond if we heard the voice of God from heaven say, “Don’t you steal that bubble gum!” He has spoken to the way we should live and He has also shown us how we can have forgiveness.
3. How do we respond when it comes to our knowing and living out the authoritative word of God? If God wrote it, and He did, does it not follow He expects us to know it and live it?

Martin Luther testified that his conscience was ***“taken captive by the Word of God.”*** Can that be truly said of each of us?

Hymn #275 ***How Firm A Foundation***