
Sermon Notes

February 25, 2024

First Congregational Church of Pomfret

Reliable Revelation

2 Peter 1:16-21

Why Grow?

- ❖ A key reason Peter's heart is set on calling his readers to pursue godly growth and spiritual maturity is that Jesus is coming back in power and glory
 - *3:7, the heavens and earth that now exist are stored up for fire, being kept until the day of judgment and destruction of the ungodly*
 - in 3:3, Peter describes false teachers who deny Christ's return as *scoffers*
- ❖ Those who have no focus on Christ's return have no motivation to pursue righteous living
 - but, since Christ **WILL** return, Peter urges God's people to live *lives of holiness and goodness*
 - Peter substantiates his affirmation about the power and coming of Christ with 2 irrefutable pieces of evidence
 - his eyewitness testimony of Jesus' transfiguration
 - the reliability of Biblical prophecy

Why Is This Here?

- ❖ What is on the human author's mind that causes him to write what he writes and to write about it in the way he does?

- ❖ What is on God's mind that causes the Holy Spirit to inspire the human author to write as he does?
- ❖ Peter's purpose in this section seems to be to provide an answer to the question: "What is the basis for my belief that Jesus will come again in glory?"
- ❖ This text divides into **two distinct sections**
 - **vv. 16-18** center on Jesus' Transfiguration
 - occurs shortly after Peter's confession that Jesus is the Christ and Jesus' own announcement that He is going to Jerusalem to suffer and be crucified
 - it is likely that Jesus' announcement causes consternation and confusion among the disciples
 - ♦ why is Jesus going to Jerusalem to be crucified instead of crowned?
 - ♦ faced with their upset, Jesus reassures them that some of them will see the Son of Man coming in His kingdom before they taste death
 - within the space of a week, Peter, James and John are given a preview of Jesus' majesty and glory along with the testimony given by God the Father's voice from heaven
 - ♦ the appearance of Elijah points to that future moment God promises in Malachi 4:5 *Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the great and awesome day of the LORD comes.*
 - ♦ Moses' appearance brings to mind the promise Moses makes in Deuteronomy 18:15 *The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me... to him you shall listen*
 - unlike "made-up myths" Peter is an eyewitness of these events that unfold in real time and space

- vv. 19-21 speak of evidence that is even greater and more reliable than Peter's own eyewitness account
 - the prophetic word
 - as valuable as eyewitness testimony is, the writing of the prophets is even **MORE** reliable
 - the prophets repeatedly predict that Messiah will establish His universal and glorious reign on earth
 - the words of the prophets **ARE** the Words of God
 - the inspiration of Scripture (2 Timothy 3:16)
 - the words of the prophets do not come through their own interpretation or as a product of their own imagination
 - the prophets *spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit*
 - the prophets provide more than sufficient testimony to Messiah's ultimate rule and reign to satisfy even the most reluctant skeptic
 - Peter also points to the reliability of the prophetic word in Acts 3:19-23

The Day of the Lord

- ❖ Peter wants his readers to pay careful attention to OT prophecies of Messiah's return
 - like a *lamp shining in a dark place*
 - *until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts*
 - these are references to the Day of the Lord, the climax of history

- the day when God will move decisively in history to save His people and judge His enemies

❖ The Morning Star

- a name for Jesus
 - Numbers 24:7
 - Revelation 22:16
 - Peter predicts that Jesus will come to bring the light of His illumination to the hearts of His people
- until that moment arrives we must search the Scriptures for all they reveal about the majesty and glory of Christ
 - it takes a whole Bible to make a whole Christian
 - we must have a continually expanding view of God and a growing knowledge of God's Word
- ❖ Peter's balanced example of making Christ known
 - a word of personal testimony about the reality of who Christ is and how Christ has revealed Himself to you
 - a heaping helping of Biblical truth and historical, Scriptural evidence

Personal Reflection

1. What motivates you to want to grow in your faith and to live a life of holiness and godliness?
2. How does the testimony Peter gives about the moment of Jesus' Transfiguration work in tandem with OT prophecies about Christ's return? How does our knowledge of both these fuel our desire to grow in grace?
3. How does what you believe about the inspiration of Scripture effect your willingness to submit to it, obey its commands and yield to it as the final authority in every area of your life?