

2 Peter part 3 – Study Notes

Introduction

The Christian life is the result of hearing God's Word, trusting it, and applying it through faith and faithful obedience. All teaching must always line up with what He has already given us in His infallible Word, as this is the only reliable source of truth He has given us. **The Word of God is our unquestionable standard for our beliefs and actions.**

2 Peter 1:12-14 *So I will always remind you of these things, even though you know them and are firmly established in the truth you now have. ¹³I think it is right to refresh your memory as long as I live in the tent of this body, ¹⁴because I know that I will soon put it aside, as our Lord Jesus Christ has made clear to me.* Peter said that he would continue to remind Christian believers of the truths as long as he lived, knowing full well that his time on this earth would now be short. Peter was not writing about some **new revelation** that people have never heard before but the fundamental and foundational truths already firmly established. Peter reinforced these firmly established truths before his martyrdom. My role is to keep bringing to remembrance the Biblical truths. Not my opinion but His!

Christian truths from the Word of God need to be established and regularly repeated. These truths do not change. The Word of God is timeless; it never changes. 2 Peter 1:15 *And I will make every effort to see that after my departure you will always be able to remember these things.*

Peter continued by explaining what is not truth. **2 Peter 1:16** *For we did not follow cleverly devised stories when we told you about the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ in power, but we were eye-witnesses of his majesty.*

Biblical Truth is not a myth. Peter's reference to **devised stories or tales** comes from the Greek word *mythos* from which we get the word **myth**. Myths are made up by people to compare spiritual truths, to illustrate life or just to simply entertain people. People concocted all sorts of myths regarding their god's in Peter's time. Their source came from the ancient religions of the Romans, Greeks, Persians and Egyptians.

Peter did not want the life of Jesus, His death, His resurrection and His return to fall in the category of *myth*; false teachers of the day called the incarnation, resurrection and coming of Jesus a myth.

Peter was an eyewitness of the life of Jesus. **2 Peter 1:17-18** *He received honour and glory from God the Father when the voice came to him from the Majestic Glory, saying, 'This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased.' ¹⁸We ourselves heard this voice that came from heaven when we were with him on the sacred mountain.* False teachers in Peter's day rested their beliefs and practices on fabricated stories and presented them as historical truth. Peter taught truth concerning Jesus Christ that came from personally knowing Jesus. He used one event of his time together with Jesus as an example. Peter personally heard the voice of God. God himself authenticated the works and words of Jesus. Peter also saw first hand the transfiguration of Jesus on the mountain, where his face shone like the sun and His clothes became white as light, and saw Jesus for who He really was. He both heard and saw. **For further study read Matthew 17:1-8; Mark 9:2-8; Luke 9:28-36.**

2 Peter 1:19 *We also have the prophetic message as something completely reliable, and you will do well to pay attention to it, as to a light shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts.* Peter talked about the prophetic message, which refers to all Scripture. It is God's truth stated in written form. It never changes and it never goes out of date. It is completely reliable.

Peter said that we would do well to pay attention to the prophetic word. In practical terms it means we must study it, not merely read it. **We must apply it to our lives!**

When we do so it is a *light shining in a dark place*. The world that we live in is a dark place. We need to rely on the truth to guide us through this dark world. The psalmist said in Psalm 119:105 *Your Word is a lamp to my feet to light the path*. Peter reminded us again that one day, Jesus Christ, the **morning star and the light of the world**, will return.

2 Peter 1:20-21 *Above all, you must understand that no prophecy of Scripture came about by the prophet's own interpretation of things. ²¹For prophecy never had its origin in the human will, but prophets, though human, spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.* Peter confirmed that no prophet speaks contrary to what is already written. One passage in the Bible will never contradict another passage, and every individual passage must be understood in the light of the whole Scripture. This is because all Scripture comes ultimately from God. God never contradicts Himself. Verse 21 says that the Prophets *were carried along by the Holy Spirit*. The prophets spoke as the Holy Spirit guided them.

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This verse is one of the most significant verses in the Bible regarding the infallibility and inerrancy of Scripture. **Infallible** means that the Bible is truthful and worthy of entire confidence. **Inerrant** means the absence of error. The Bible is not a result of a humans ideas or human will. Yet humans do have a process in it. The Holy Scriptures surpasses anything any mere human can compose. This has come about by God's direct involvement. **All Scripture** is God breathed because in the process of writing, the author remained under the leading of the Holy Spirit.

Peter taught that believers must ensure their Christian beliefs and life style is built on the inspired, infallible and inerrant Scriptures because when the Apostles were gone; Scripture would guide the church in sound teaching. It is only by centring our faith on God's Word that we can discern false prophets, doctrine and defeat heresy. If what they say doesn't line up its wrong.

The Apostle Paul said in 2 Timothy 3:16-17 *All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, ¹⁷ so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.*

Peter's message is as relevant today to us as it was for the Christian Church in the first century. When we turn to God's Word, we consult the most reliable source.

The world is full of alternative sources of revelation and competing philosophies. The Bible alone contains God's Word that never changes.

We must never make any other source, experience, dream, feelings or opinions equal to or more reliable than God's Word. If we do we fall into error.

Psalm 119:11 *I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you.*

Psalm 119:16 *I delight in your decrees; I will not neglect your word.*

Psalm 119:114 *You are my refuge and my shield; I have put my hope in your word.*

Personal opinion can never exalted above God's Word. Peter' warned against those who had placed a different source of knowledge above God's Word. Those who did, their results were disastrous.