

Sermon Notes March 29

A Sure and Shining Word (2 Peter 1:19-21)

- In chapter one, Peter is establishing what our unshakable faith is all about so we can be ready to face the unrelenting false teachers who want to undermine our faith.
 - Our faith is grounded in Christ alone and the great blessings of receiving “*everything pertaining to life and godliness*” and His “*precious and magnificent promises*” (v. 3)
 - Our faith is designed to grow in virtues that make us useful and fruitful to God and others (v. 5-7)
 - Our faith is designed to be guided by God’s “*truth*” (v. 12) that must be remembered (v. 12-15) and is authenticated by apostolic eyewitness testimony (v. 16-18)
- Before Peter systematically unmasks the persuasive perverters of God’s prophetic truth (false teachers), he lays the most fundamental and foundational revelation anyone could ever possess, the Word of God.
- The best antidote to error is a strong dose of truth and the only antidote to spiritual error is an accurate dose of biblical truth.
- The Bible is the only volume of ultimate truth.
 - It reveals five key parts to its storyline (Creation; Fall; Promise; First Coming; Second Coming)
 - It’s the only existing source of revelation about God, mankind’s core problem (sin), how our core problem is solved (death, burial, resurrection of Christ), the purpose and meaning of everything and the consummation of all things.
- God’s word possess the most important and unique characteristics that set it apart from and beyond all other literature or information.
 - it’s active (1 Th. 2:13; Hb 4:12); certain (Isa 55:10-11; Lk 16:17); sacred (2 Tim. 3:15); holy (Rom. 1:2); living (Jn 6:63; Hb. 4:12); permanent (Mt. 24:35; 1 Pt. 1:25; Is. 40:8); transformative (1 Cor. 1:18; 1 Pt 2:1); cleansing (E. 5:26); nourishing (Mt. 4:4).
 - It’s called gold & silver (of invaluable worth-Ps. 12:6; 19:10; 119:127); a seed (source of new life-Jm 1:18; 1 Pt. 1:23); water (to cleanse from sin-Ph. 5:25-27; Rev. 21:6; 22:17); a mirror (to see the real you-Jm 1:22-25); food (nourish the soul = milk-1 Pt. 2-13, bread-Dt. 8:3; Mt. 4:4,

meat-Heb 5:12-14, honey-Ps. 19:10); clothing (a life dressed in truth-Titus 2:10; 1 Pt. 3:1-5); sword (spiritual weapon-Eph 6:17, Heb 4:12); plumb line (benchmark of spiritual reality-Amos 7:8); hammer (powerful judgment-Jer. 23:29); fire (painful judgment (Jer. 5:14; 20:9; 23:29) and Peter calls the Word a “*more sure...lamp shining in a dark place*” (1:19; Psalm 119:105)

- Peter reveals **four vital aspects** of God’s Word that God’s people must know, embrace and live out.
1. **God’s word is incontestable truth, so believe it** (1:19a: “*So we have the prophetic word made more sure...*”)
 - a. It’s incontestable because it is the prophetic word “made more sure” and Peter’s eyewitness testimony confirms what the Old Testament (and by extension, the New Testament) says about “*the day*” (v. 19 – the “*day of the Lord*”)
 - b. The Old Testament prophets predicted the Lord’s sufferings, death, resurrection and glory to follow (as Jesus noted in Luke 24:27, 44-45)
 - c. Jesus fulfilled 109 of His 332 predictions from the “*prophetic word*” of the prophets.
 2. **God’s word is illuminated truth, so “pay attention” to it** (1:19b: “*to which you do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place...*”)
 - a. It’s a “***lamp shining in a dark place***”
 - b. The world is a “*dark place*” (word of dirty, murky – Jn. 3:19-21)
 - c. The “*lamp*” (Ps. 119:105) guides us through this moral darkness and points us to the ultimate light (John 8:12)
 - d. Our journey is “***until the day dawns***” (reference to the 2nd coming of Jesus) which is great joy and hope for believers who are rescued from the wrath to come (1 Thess. 1:10), but great judgment and painful regret for those who reject the “*Light of the world*” (Jn. 8:12)
 - e. The “***morning star***” is Jesus Christ called “*the Bright and Morning Star*” (Rev. 2:16; 22:16) and when He comes, He will be the light that guides us “*in our hearts*”
 - f. We must “***pay attention***” to this light in two ways:
 - i. Shine this light internally on our hearts and life (Col. 3:16)
 - ii. Shine this light externally in our life and ministry (James 1:22-25)
 3. **God’s word is interpreted truth, so get it right** (1:20)
 - a. God’s word is sacred, holy, truthful, inerrant, authoritative, so we must be careful to understand it correctly and not cut and paste it as we see fit (like the false teachers do who “*distort*” it (2 Pt. 3:16) and desire it (2 Tim. 4:3-4).

- b. God' Word is the standard and God's word has one meaning, so how do we get it right?
 - i. We've posted some helpful resources (How to Interpret the Bible and Why You Can Trust the Bible)
 - ii. Here's some mini guidelines (P.O.D.)
 - 1. **Prep yourself** (pray for the Holy Spirit's illumination)
 - 2. **Observe the text** (read it). Ask some questions (who, what, when, where, why, how). Look for connecting words ("*and*", "*but*", "*if*", "*for, because, therefore*", "*in, into, with*", "*in order that*"), verbs, repeated words, related concepts, comparisons (things similar), contrasts (things different), cause and effect, warnings, lists, commands, promises, questions, answers, problems, solutions, missing things, main points, cultural clues, statements about God the Father, Son, Holy Spirit.
 - 3. **Decipher the text.** The goal is understanding the author's intent: there's only one meaning , but can have multiple applications. Follow the rules of interpretation: literal (face value unless there is sufficient cause otherwise); grammatical (look at words, syntax, context and genre), historical (the time, place, language and culture) and correlated (Scripture agrees with itself, so interpret Scripture with other Scripture. The unclear passages are understood in light of the clear passages. The golden rule of interpretation states: "*When the plain sense of Scripture makes common sense, seek no other sense, therefore, take every word at its primary, ordinary, usual, literal meaning unless the facts of the immediate context, studies in the light of related passages and axiomatic and fundamental truths, indicate clearly otherwise*" (David L. Cooper). Research with study tools like cross-references, concordances, dictionaries, encyclopedias, commentaries. Request help from pastors, leaders, mature believers.
4. **God's word is inspired truth, so treasure it** (1:21)
- a. God tells us how He wrote revealed and wrote the Bible Shini, but Satan and his lying spirits are always ready to undermine **three major truths**:
 - i. The person and work of Jesus Christ
 - ii. The only way of salvation
 - iii. The truthfulness of the Bible

- b. God's Word is not **naturally** generated (v. 21a: "*for no prophecy was ever made by an act of human will*"). It's not humanly derived or culturally constructed
- c. God's Word is **supernaturally** generated (v. 21b: "*but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God*")
 - i. The writers of Scripture were not personally "*inspired*", but what they heard, spoke and wrote was (2 Tim. 3:16: God-breathed out His Word)
 - ii. The writers were "*moved by the Holy Spirit*" (picture of the wind moving a ship through the water by its sails)
 - iii. Inspiration is God overseeing human so that using their own individual personalities, experiences, thought processes and vocabulary they composed and recorded without error His revelation in the original copies of Scripture.