

The Trustworthy Word - 1

The Prophetic Word Confirmed

2 Peter 1.12-21

This letter was written to believers who shared a common bond – ‘like precious faith’. Penned towards the end of Peter’s life (approx 65-68AD). In this letter he deals with a big problem in the church – corruption through false teaching.

Peter begins to outline the legacy that he wished to leave after his death.

- He tells the church it is good and right to reiterate and revisit things that they already knew (v13). It is good to go over the ‘basics’ and be re-stirred.
- He did not preach stories or cunningly devised fables – there was much apostasy and false teaching around (which he deals with in ch2). Compare what Paul says in 1 Cor 2.4
- Peter preached, spoke and wrote about what he had seen – He was an eyewitness. An eyewitness account is very difficult to disprove.
- Peter refers to the voice of God that he heard on the mountain – we heard it, we were there.

Mark 9.2-10

- Peter, James and John were with Jesus on the mountain
- Jesus was transfigured before them – His clothes were white, bright and shining
- Two of the Old Testament greats appeared talking with Jesus – Moses and Elijah. These three representatives of the Word of God: Moses (the Law), Elijah (the Prophets), Jesus (the New Testament)
- The glory of God descended in the cloud
- They heard the voice of God speak “This is My beloved Son....”

They were eyewitnesses to the events that took place - they had seen the prophets and the cloud, they had heard the voice of God speaking.

Many people in the church have words, they receive prophecies, they hear 'God speaking' – but Peter could honestly say he heard the voice of God.

He went to encourage the church by telling them that they have the prophetic word confirmed – the Holy Scriptures.

“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”
(v19)

“We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed”
(AV)

“And we have the prophetic word [*made*] firmer still. You will do well to pay close attention to it” (Amp)

Peter's legacy – listen (take heed, give your full attention) to the Word of God. It is through these ‘*exceedingly great and precious promises*’ (vs4) that we can escape the corruption

- We do not trust in visions, prophecies, or gifts of the Holy Spirit
- These gifts and utterances will always be backed up with the Scriptures – this is the prophetic word confirmed, or made more sure.
- The gifts are to be taken as confirmation of what we already know and believe from the word of God
- We must esteem God's Word above all – the rock, the foundation on which we build and establish our life.

I believe it is fitting that at the end of his life Peter (whose name means ‘rock’) would point us to the rock on which we can securely build.

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