

The Trustworthy Word - 2

Empty Promises of False Teaching

Last time we saw how Peter was encouraging believers to trust in the ‘[exceeding great and precious promises](#)’ and to hold fast to the prophetic word confirmed, that is the written word of God, from the OT prophets to the writings of his peers like Paul.

We stated last time that prophecies, visions and ‘words from the Lord’ must be backed up by the benchmark of scripture.

The closing verses of Ch 1 say:

“[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.*” 2 Peter 1.20-21](#)

The word they were to trust was that spoken and penned by the holy men of God, who were moved and inspired of the Holy Spirit.

But there were also those who men who spoke that were not inspired by the Holy Spirit. It is these Peter warns us of in Ch 2.

“[But there were also false prophets among the people, even as there will be false teachers among you, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies, even denying the Lord who bought them, *and bring on themselves swift destruction. \(2\) And many will follow their destructive ways, because of whom the way of truth will be blasphemed \(3\) By covetousness they will exploit you with deceptive words*” 2 Peter 2.1-3](#)

One of the oldest strategies the enemy uses to destroy the effectiveness of the Word of God is cast doubt on it’s trustworthiness

Right back in Eden we see this

“[Now the serpent was more cunning than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said to the woman, "Has God indeed said, 'You shall not eat of every tree of the garden'?"](#)” Genesis 3.1

The serpent comes with this question "Has God indeed said...?". This is the devil's number one weapon of attack - he undermines the word of God and questions man on the validity of it.

A number of heretical teachings had crept into the church – this was causing believers to question the validity of the ‘[exceeding great and precious promises](#)’ (2 Peter 1.4) and turn from God – if God can’t be trusted in this then why should we believe that?

- Some were casting doubt on the return of Jesus Christ – saying He’s not coming (Peter addresses this in the next chapter)
- Others were teaching that Christ had already returned
- Hymenaeus and Philetus were teaching that the resurrection had passed – 2 Timothy 2.17-18

We need to be watchful in these days when many are undermining the validity of God's Word, saying

- it's not relevant for us today
- we need to move with the times
- Not all Scripture is God-inspired
- God didn't actually mean that

Jesus told the Pharisees that they were doing just this – getting men to follow their man-made traditions and in doing so rejecting the commandments of God

“AND IN VAIN THEY WORSHIP ME, TEACHING AS DOCTRINES THE COMMANDMENTS OF MEN.’ (8) For laying aside the commandment of God, you hold the tradition of men—the washing of pitchers and cups, and many other such things you do.” (9) He said to them, “*All too well* you reject the commandment of God, that you may keep your tradition.” Mark 7.7-9

Peter finishes the chapter with the following words:

“For when they speak great swelling *words* of emptiness, they allure through the lusts of the flesh, through lewdness, the ones who have actually escaped from those who live in error. While they promise them liberty, they themselves are slaves of corruption; for by whom a person is overcome, by him also he is brought into bondage.” 2 Peter 2.18-19

There are believers that don't want to be bound by the traditions laid down in the Word of God, but actually find themselves coming into bondage by the following the empty words of those who lead them astray.

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