

The Trustworthy Word - 3

Our Growth Is Dependent On The Word

Over the last few weeks we have been looking at this series from 2 Peter on The Trustworthy Word. So far we have seen:

- We have been given exceedingly great and precious promises – which unlock all things that pertain to life and godliness enabling us to be partakers of the divine nature
- The prophetic word confirmed is the benchmark by which we judge all other prophetic words and visions
- This will keep us from the empty promises of false teaching, which twists and perverts the Word of God
 - the devil's number one method of attack is to undermine the validity of the Word
 - (i) It's not relevant today; (ii) God didn't mean it; (iii) that promise isn't for you

“Beloved, I now write to you this second epistle (in *both of which* I stir up your pure minds by way of reminder), that you may be mindful of the words which were spoken before by the holy prophets, and of the commandment of us, the apostles of the Lord and Savior” 2 Peter 3.1-2

As we begin to look at Ch 3 we see the apostle giving us his reason for writing this letter. To encourage the believers to call to remembrance the things that they have already heard – through the prophets and through the apostolic teaching.

- They were to constantly be mindful of the word of God
- This was the instruction of Moses -
“And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart. (7) You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up. (8) You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. (9) You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.” Deuteronomy 6.6-9

He urges them not to question the promises that they have received – “God is not slack concerning His promise” (vs9). The word slack here means ‘to delay, be late, tardiness’. The context of this statement is in relation to the Lord’s coming – He is not late or delayed in His coming as He is giving opportunity for men to come to repentance.

Peter reminds them that it was by the Word of God that the heavens and earth were formed, and it is the same word that keeps them

It is by the same word that we were born-again and we are kept.

Rather than question the word/promises we are to hasten them by calling them to remembrance and stirring them up in our spirit, being diligent in it (v14) diligent – *spoudazo*, ‘make effort, endeavour, be bent upon, labour, study’

Paul wrote similar words to Timothy, which comes on the back of a warning about false teaching:

“But you must continue in the things which you have learned and been assured of, knowing from whom you have learned *them*, (15) and that from childhood you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. (16) All Scripture *is* given by inspiration of God, and *is* profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, (17) that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work” 2

Timothy 3.14-17

In the closing words of the letter Peter writes:

“You therefore, beloved, since you know *this* beforehand, beware lest you also fall from your own steadfastness, being led away with the error of the wicked; but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.” (vs17-18)

Our growth is dependent on the word

- In his first letter, he wrote: “*desire the pure milk of the word, that you may grow thereby*” 1 Peter 2.2
- Psalm 119 is a long list of stanzas which tell us that through the word we get wisdom, knowledge and understanding on how to live and grow in God. It is “*a lamp to my feet and a light to my path*” (vs105)
- Jesus taught a parable about two house builders (Mark 7.22-24), in it He says a wise man builds his life (grows) by hearing and doing the word.
- This is why we need to call the word to remembrance, be diligent in it – the word will keep us from error and cause us to grow