

You Can Trust God's Word

II Peter 1:16-21, Sunday AM, September 3, 2023

Preflude – Scripture: 2 Peter 1:16–21 (NASB95) For we did not follow cleverly devised tales when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses of His majesty. ¹⁷ For when He received honor and glory from God the Father, such an utterance as this was made to Him by the Majestic Glory, “This is My beloved Son with whom I am well-pleased”—¹⁸ and we ourselves heard this utterance made from heaven when we were with Him on the holy mountain. ¹⁹ So we have the prophetic word *made* more sure, to which you do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star arises in your hearts. ²⁰ But know this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture is *a matter* of one’s own interpretation, ²¹ for no prophecy was ever made by an act of human will, but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.

We have come to the end of our study in II Peter. Tim recited—some of you recited parts, others read it—we’ve had a year to let it ruminate in our minds. What remains? What shines? It all depends on what you are looking for and how much you’ve put into our study together. There are gems in this book that are priceless, there’s a path to live a fruitful life, there are warnings about the alternatives, but all of it rests on the object of your faith and its trustworthiness. The faith represented in II Peter rests on the trustworthiness of the true knowledge of Jesus—Him who called us by His own glory and excellence. Do you have this true knowledge? Are you living inside it? Growing in it?

*Hymn #389: More About Jesus

¹⁷ For when He received honor and glory from God the Father, such an utterance as this was made to Him by the Majestic Glory, “This is My beloved Son with whom I am well-pleased” This real happening on the Mount of Transfiguration points forward to when Jesus returns in power and glory to receive His own who will then join the heavenly hosts praising God. Here’s some of what we will sing.

*Hymn (Powerpoint): Revelation Song

This is so beautiful—awe-inspiring—transcendent. It IS, but in order for this to take place, the present heavens and earth will be destroyed with fire as Jesus comes as the Final Judge. Jesus IS coming in power and great glory. He WILL judge righteously—all that is wrong will be made right, and those who are His will reign with Him and praise and serve Him forever. The rest will be separated from Him in torment forever. This is right. This should sober you. Are you living ready for Jesus’ return in power and great glory? He could come today.

*Hymn (Powerpoint): Day of Judgment, Day of Wonder

***Pastoral Prayer: Pastor Jahn D Scripture: Luke 24:13–35** (NASB95) And behold, two of them were going that very day to a village named Emmaus, which was about seven miles from Jerusalem. ¹⁴ And they were talking with each other about all these things which had taken place. ¹⁵ While they were talking and discussing, Jesus Himself approached and *began* traveling with them. ¹⁶ But their eyes were prevented from recognizing Him. ¹⁷ And He said to them, “What are these words that you are exchanging with one another as you are walking?” And they stood still, looking sad. ¹⁸ One *of them*, named Cleopas, answered and said to Him, “Are You the only one visiting Jerusalem and unaware of the things which have happened here in these days?” ¹⁹ And He said to them, “What things?” And they said to Him, “The things about Jesus the Nazarene, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word in the sight of God and all the people, ²⁰ and how the chief priests and our rulers delivered Him to the sentence of death, and crucified Him. ²¹ “But we were hoping that it was He who was going to redeem Israel. Indeed, besides all this, it is the third day since these things happened. ²² “But also some women among us amazed us. When they were at the tomb early in the morning, ²³ and did not find His body, they came, saying that they had also seen a vision of angels who said that He was alive. ²⁴ “Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just exactly as the women also had said; but Him they did not see.” ²⁵ And He said to them, “O foolish men and slow of heart to believe in all that the prophets have spoken! ²⁶ “Was it not necessary for the Christ to suffer these things and to enter into His glory?” ²⁷ Then beginning with Moses and with all the prophets, He explained to them the things concerning Himself in all the Scriptures. ²⁸ And they approached the village where they were going, and He acted as though He were going farther. ²⁹ But they urged Him, saying, “Stay with us, for it is *getting* toward evening, and the day is now nearly over.” So He went in to stay with them. ³⁰ When He had reclined *at the table* with them, He took the bread and blessed *it*, and breaking *it*, He *began* giving *it* to them. ³¹ Then their eyes were opened and they recognized Him; and He vanished from their sight. ³² They said to one another, “Were not our hearts burning within us while He was speaking to us on the road, while He was explaining the Scriptures to us?” ³³ And they got up that very hour and returned to Jerusalem, and found gathered together the eleven and those who were with them, ³⁴ saying, “The Lord has really risen and has appeared to Simon.” ³⁵ They *began* to relate their experiences on the road and how He was recognized by them in the breaking of the bread.

Offering: *Doxology:

We have been given much in God’s Word—called the prophetic Word in our passage. How important is that word to your daily life? First, what have you heard of the prophetic word, but secondly, what urgency do you have to pay attention to what you have heard? Our passage says that we would *do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star arises in your hearts*. As we have heard many times from the account on the road to Emmaus, the experience of Jesus Himself appearing and giving truth about Himself was not initially seen or understood. God Himself present, and they didn’t get it until He opened their eyes. As we will see from II Peter, there are many distractions and voices coming from both inside and outside that will threaten to keep us from paying attention to the Word of God given us. As we prepare for the message, ask for the Spirit of God to move inside your heart/the hearts of those in here with you that we would hear and respond to His word.

*Hymn #381: Open My Eyes, That I May See

Message: You Can Trust God’s Word II Peter 1:16-21

*Hymn #275: How Firm a Foundation

Prayer