

You Can Trust God's Word Pt. 3

II Peter 1:16-21, CBC, Wednesday, September 13, 2023 Your Words Are Wonderful

Living Scripture new CCEF conference online on our website **I. What you have been given is precious and is under attack.**

v. 12 ¹²Therefore, I will always be ready to remind you of these things, even though you *already* know them, and have been established in the truth which is present with you. **The gospel is sufficient. Stay focused there. The gospel given has been lived. Live it now!** **THIS** is what you need to deal with pressures and fears, and any other voices/options as you live daily, ordinary life **I.** Can you articulate the gospel? **2.** Are you conscious of how that gospel lives/effects each moment of each day in your life? **3.** Can you identify other gospels that daily threaten the gospel calling for you to defend and proclaim the gospel to yourself and others? (different priorities than the gospel); remember, false teaching only dangerous b/c you WANT it. It feeds some need/desire causing you to drift away from living the words you SAY you believe to follow similar teaching that gives you what you value more than God's provision through Christ to bring glory to Himself through your building His kingdom instead of yours (**check your loves/fears**—security, affirmation, fulfillment, peace, ME time, family—**if don't love God more, will drift**); **II. Time is short.** vv. 13-14 right to remind, b/c I will soon die **III. Maintain gospel-driven life for the rest of your life.** v. 15 ¹⁵ And I will also be diligent that at any time after my departure you will be able to call these things to mind. **I hear, but what ARE these other options so concerned about?** I told you—stumbling/not get up, NOT entering eternal kingdom; Yes, I know, but what if not quite stark as you say—I mean, 3:4, **Where is**—at best, it hasn't happened—**why not?** maybe we've interpreted it wrongly; NO, look back father 3:5-9; **can't we agree to disagree**; **at heart of danger here is the basis/standard by which analysis taking place**—no longer common playbook even among supposed Christians, no longer carefully/rightly dividing the truth with and under the people of God, but instead, we use a syncretistic standard adopted as response to fears, hurts, and goals—come from culture/media/reaction to experiences/impulses; shaky ground leaving us alone, calloused, sometimes hurting, **sure of one thing—IT'S NOT LIKE YOU SAY, STOP NOISE!** in face of this, Peter says, **there IS a final word, and it is not me**; **WE have right authority, you don't**; call it arrogant, **but unloving if I don't show you why not**; b/r zeroing in on dangerous character/lifestyle resulting from false teacher's teaching, Peter finishes chapter with certainty of God's Word and their interpretation of it **I. There are trustworthy witnesses testifying God's actions in history.** vv. 16-18 **A. God has given trustworthy witness of what is to come.** ¹⁶ For we did not follow cleverly devised tales when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ NOT fable, kernel of truth to encourage; NOT new message **Matt. 24:29-31, Matt. 25:31-32, Christ WILL return in power/glory to destroy world at moment's notice, judge those who don't believe, AND judge those who believe according to what expected from His own** (deeds that only could come from Spirit of God and in line w what He asked us to do) **B. God has given credible witnesses to His redemptive activity.** WE weren't even seeing full picture of Jesus' coming twice—first time to die/rise again, THEN power/glory; stood AGAINST, but **Jesus** mercifully told us we would see evidence of Jesus' glory in His kingdom **Matt. 16:28, Mk. 9:1, 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. **credible witness?** Saw/heard—look at our lives to back our testimony; I'm NOT risking all for fable; **Jesus WILL return as reigning King** **You can trust God's Word** **II. There are trustworthy messengers testifying to the veracity, perspicuity, and sufficiency of God's word.** vv. 19-21 Accuracy, clarity, brightness, certainty—can't do this point justice for time's sake, but start **A. Scripture IS God's word.** ¹⁹ So we have the prophetic word *made more sure*, combined w vv. 20-21, refers to "the writings" OT Scripture & specifically OT prophecies written down concerning Jesus; while BOTH sufficient witness to credibility of God's word/work, most likely saying here that **this credible experience witnessed by others (transfiguration) validates Jesus as God coming in glory; and therefore it stamps/validates prophetic word** concerning coming of Messiah & His work which includes future return for judgment and salvation establishing universal and glorious reign; ²⁰ **But know this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture is a matter of one's own interpretation**, Schreiner notes that this is NOT focus on origin of prophecy but proper interpretation; ESV, NKJV, NASB take it OWN interpretation—meaning each person interpreting; NIV takes it prophet's—meaning both revelation AND interpretation came from God; **tight arguments about grammar and flow can take it either way, but focus is that there is a second reliable witness—OT prophecies**; looked at OT prophecies of future Davidic King and the Servant of the Lord fulfilled here w Jesus' words and work; **transfiguration verifies apostle's interpretation of OT prophecies**—false teachers 2:1, misuse and distort Scripture II Pet. 3:16, **but true source for both transfiguration AND OT prophecies is God** ²¹ **for no prophecy was ever made by an act of human will, but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.** BB Warfield called concurrence—both human beings and God fully involved in process of inspiration; NOT dictation theory—**ie. Koran**; their personalities, literary styles, but NOT focused on their mind, gifts, abilities; Nisbet notes that Scriptures NOT to give mind of writers, but public mind of God; under authority/guidance of God—same word for **moved**/carried along in **participle form in vv. 17-18** (2x—MADE) **voice from God, writers spoke from God, carried by Holy Spirit**; b/c sourced in God, Scriptures are authoritative, infallible, and inerrant; 3:1-2 remember the words of the holy prophets AND commandment of Lord spoken by apostles; Paul had own experience, but made him lean into what given by prophets **Rom. 1:1-5**; word true, clear, sufficient; THEREFORE, **B. Live God's Word.** **you do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place**, this been Peter's whole burden (precious, magnificent promises, BY THEM you may escape corruption) God's word, NOT man's, **In. 5:39-44 Ps. 119:105, Ps. 1, Jm. 1** listen intently and DO, psalmist cry—open my eyes to behold wonderful things from Thy law; this is dependence based on life from God, prizing fellowship w Him and your

life lived under and for Him; **Can you think of hindrances to paying attention in this way?** **Focusing on what you need RIGHT NOW to live** (who determines what you need), **what supports your values** (rude, unreasonable, NOT peaceful, livable, corrects injustices—puts people under God’s judgment who you think are out of line, protects your personality or way you need people to act to have peace), **what helps you seem wise** (YOURs to interpret or to focus on your uncanny knack for figuring it out); **We** must not in practice deny our allegiance to the authority of the Word of God by saying we believe it while continuing to live according to what is right in our own eyes. Burk Parsons *Questionable Authority*, Tabletalk, March, 2009, p. 2 So subtle to deny Master who bought you 2:1, turn from true knowledge of Lord **2:20-22** if NOT guided by Spirit to rightly divide Word, using ALL resources He has given us; John Stott BBC basic, balanced Christianity—watch coming down on middle as an excuse for not thinking hard enough about issues—easier than working through alternatives to discover truth; (remember quote in article I need to find—value simplicity that after complexity, not the simplicity that comes before) balance as product of careful thinking and not of superficiality, is a valuable commodity in Christian faith. Heresies usually begin w imbalance; in Moo **can you think of dangers of focusing too much on either divine or human writing of Scripture?** Read Moo pp. 86-89 **apologetic method needs balance as well**; while requires much work to build foundation for inspiration of Scripture (concurrence) (must study; love for you to make use of free online classes, take paid classes; but DON’T make youtube do all the work--**READ—we have a bunch right in library**; EVEN WHILE MUST study, logic alone won’t fix whole issue—Spirit of God must work which means prayer & acknowledging means of Spirit’s work MUST be part of the study); evidentialist/pre-suppositionalist--eyewitnesses here speaks of evidentialist side along with Acts 2:32-33 and **I Cor. 2:14** speaks to pre-suppositionalist side “Evidence without the work of the Spirit, sought through prayer and the Word, will be of no use; but a refusal to appeal to evidence flies in the face of both the historical nature of revelation and the witness of the early Christians themselves.” Moo, p. 89 **The authority of Scripture is greater than the comprehension of the whole of man’s reason.** Martin Luther; Nisbet notes that there are knots (implied by word interpretation) that can’t be entangled apart from work of Spirit; but don’t get lost in just seeking understanding/knowing it—**live in face of God, prayerful dependence as LIVE w eyes on heaven/NOT self and here**—moral choices (time, priorities, values)—this NOT there w false teachers; which leads to last part, pay attention—till when? **until the day dawns and the morning star arises in your hearts.** Day of Lord—3:10 all over OT when final judgment 2:9, 3:7, and Lord’s own delivered/full realization of entrance to eternal kingdom, 3:12—eternal day 3:18; **until morning star arises in hearts**—name for Venus in ancient world which appears right b/r dawn; word literally means light-bringer (another, daybringer) phosphorus;--most certainly refers to coming of Jesus—perhaps allusion to **Num. 24:17** as speaks of day when God’s enemies crushed; **Rev. 22:16**; pointing to time when those ready for His return b/c have heeded God’s trustworthy witnesses and messengers won’t need prophetic Word and ordinances of church b/c He is light of heaven; **Jesus IS coming in power and glory**, Acts 1:6-8 warns we won’t know when; Peter says like a thief; **Paying attention to God’s Word, trusting the witnesses He has given us in a way that focuses on rightly interpreting and living God’s Word with an eye to the Day of the Lord—how should this affect us? how is this different than how we live or approach God’s Word?** it lifts our gaze from merely what we can see, know and forces eyes FIRST to God’s Word with an intention for application, but then lifts our gaze beyond us, beyond death, beyond natural to supernatural—to place outside of time where God preparing next step in redemptive plan, **Are you ready for His return?** Don’t follow the false teachers and turn from way of righteousness and the holy commandment; respond NOW to His gracious salvation/reconciliation and be fruitful in the true knowledge of Christ, therefore ready for His return/judgment

Numbers 24:17 “I see him, but not now; I behold him, but not near; A star shall come forth from Jacob, A scepter shall rise from Israel, And shall crush through the forehead of Moab, And tear down all the sons of Sheth.

Matthew 16:28 “Truly I say to you, there are some of those who are standing here who will not taste death until they see the Son of Man coming in His kingdom.”

Matthew 24:29–31 “But immediately after the tribulation of those days THE SUN WILL BE DARKENED, AND THE MOON WILL NOT GIVE ITS LIGHT, AND THE STARS WILL FALL from the sky, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken. ³⁰ “And then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in the sky, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the SON OF MAN COMING ON THE CLOUDS OF THE SKY with power and great glory. ³¹ “And He will send forth His angels with a GREAT TRUMPET and THEY WILL GATHER TOGETHER His elect from the four winds, from one end of the sky to the other.

Matthew 25:31–32 “But when the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the angels with Him, then He will sit on His glorious throne. ³² “All the nations will be gathered before Him; and He will separate them from one another, as the shepherd separates the sheep from the goats;

Mark 9:1 And Jesus was saying to them, “Truly I say to you, there are some of those who are standing here who will not taste death until they see the kingdom of God after it has come with power.”

John 5:39–44 “You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; it is these that testify about Me; ⁴⁰ and you are unwilling to come to Me so that you may have life. ⁴¹ “I do not receive glory from men; ⁴² but I know you, that you do not have the love of God in yourselves. ⁴³ “I have come in My Father’s name, and you do not receive Me; if another comes in his own name, you will receive him. ⁴⁴ “How can you believe, when you receive glory from one another and you do not seek the glory that is from the *one and only* God?”

Romans 1:1–5 Paul, a bond-servant of Christ Jesus, called as an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, ² which He promised beforehand through His prophets in the holy Scriptures, ³ concerning His Son, who was born of a descendant of David according to the flesh, ⁴ who was declared the Son of God with power by the resurrection from the dead, according to the Spirit of holiness, Jesus Christ our Lord, ⁵ through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about *the* obedience of faith among all the Gentiles for His name’s sake,

1 Corinthians 2:14–15 But a natural man does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually appraised.

Revelation 22:16 “I, Jesus, have sent My angel to testify to you these things for the churches. I am the root and the descendant of David, the bright morning star.”