

You Can Trust God's Word Pt. 2

II Peter 1:16-21, CBC, Wednesday, September 6, 2023

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!** the BASIS for faithfully continuing in the gospel is laid out in the gospel given you (five pieces of gospel) THIS is I Cor. 15 what I received, passed on, THIS is II Pet. 1:1-4; **THIS is what you need to deal with pressures and fears, and any other voices/options;** must continue to work out implications of gospel in daily, ordinary life **I. Can you articulate the gospel? Christ at center** Jn. 14:6, Eph. 4:21 truth is in Jesus **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 ¹³ I consider it right, as long as I am in this *earthly* dwelling, to stir you up by way of reminder, ¹⁴ knowing that the laying aside of my *earthly* dwelling is imminent, as also our Lord Jesus Christ has made clear to me. **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 you, 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;** Went through book as whole showing problem **at heart of dangers here is the basis/standard by which taking place**—no longer common playbook even among supposed Christians, no longer carefully/rightly dividing the truth with and under the people of God, not even , but instead, individually, rather than together, we use a syncretistic standard adopted as response to fears, hurts, and goals—come from reaction to experiences, culture, impulses—shaky ground leaving us alone, exposed, calloused, sometimes hurting, lonely, **sure of one thing—IT'S NOT LIKE YOU SAY!** so many voices, noise—just need quiet; **what's the way forward from this scenario?** Need **path** not just for those struggling, discontent, filled w cynicism, unbelief asking these questions, **but God-fearing churches, pastors, Christians, parents, children, spouses**—**NONE** of ways forward silver bullet; ALL VERY messy, unsafe, VERY slow; **If this path real, not just idealistic fantasy, need foundation of final word;** 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; what we've given you IS good news because it and it alone IS God's Word and interpretation of that word **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, but NOT real; Jesus IS coming w power and glory; NOT new message **Matt. 24:29-31, Matt. 25:31-32,** gave other passages showing Jesus coming again in power and glory tied w advent, life, death, resurrection, ascension **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.** But how do you know Peter/apostles? been so long, hasn't come; if hasn't come, can't live so tied up—must live here, now; **I understand, that's why writing you;** **when Jesus gave us same message, we didn't see how it could fit together;** in fact, I STOOD AGAINST, but then Jesus told us we would see evidence of Jesus' glory in His kingdom **Matt. 16:28, Mk. 9:1,** God merciful to us, **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. heard Moses, Elijah (THEY are real) ALL talking about **Lk. 9:30-31;** so many pieces lined up (heard similar words at baptism—glory of God in OT same as THIS glory; **credible witness?** Saw/heard—look at our lives to back our character; I'm NOT risking all for fable; James lost head, John endured persecution; real experiences FROM God; **other credible witnesses saw/heard** **Lk. 2:20, Lk. 7:22; Acts 4:19-20, 22:13-15; I Jn. 1:1-3, 5;** 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*, words of prophets, when combined w vv. 20-21, refers to "the writings" OT Scripture & specifically OT prophecies written down concerning Jesus; while little uncertainty of wording here as to which adds weight to other, could be stacking proofs by saying prophetic word VERY CERTAIN (valid interpretation of word); BUT, Peter in no way saying that vv. 16-18 inconclusive in discrediting false teachers, so most likely saying, **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; as they contemplated what saw/heard, Ps. 3:4, 15:1, Zech. 8:3, echoes Deut. 18:15—allusions to God establishing His King who will Judge—ps. 2:6-9, Is. 42:1—Servant of Lord as Redeemer suffers for sins of people Is. 53:6—focus on Jesus' honor and glory before crucifixion pointing to rest of Father's plan--Jesus fulfills promises to David @ future king, and prophecies about Servant of the Lord; ²⁰ But know this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture is a matter of one's own 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; Schreiner notes that this is NOT focus on origin of prophecy but proper interpretation; tight arguments about grammar and flow can take it either way, but focus is that there is a second reliable witness—OT prophecies; transfiguration verifies apostle's interpretation of OT prophecies—false teachers 2:1, THEY 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; 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--carried along used in participle form in vv. 17-18 (2x—voice came from God—came); 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;

B. Live God's Word.

vv. 16-19a function as ground for 19b 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 Ps. 119:105 Nisbet, World so dark that own reason, counsel or example of others will often leave us comfortless—resulting in wandering and falling in snares except look to light shining in dark place Jn. 5:35-47, fits w SS about those who did not listen to word of God vs. Jm. 1 listen intently and DO Rom. 8:13, I Cor. 1, 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 (who determines what you need), what supports your values (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 much work to build foundation for inspiration of Scripture and this idea of concurrence (can, should, must study; love for you to make use of free online classes, take paid classes; READ—we have a bunch right in library; DON'T make youtube do all the work—EVEN WHILE 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--should be holy fear of saying honor Scriptures, but then don't

wrestle w it to live it w eyes on heaven/NOT self and here; 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/alter our focus? OR 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 our 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?** Are you responding now to His gracious salvation/reconciliation and being fruitful in the true knowledge of Christ, therefore ready for judgment? Don’t follow the false teachers and turn from the way of righteousness and the holy commandment **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.

Deuteronomy 18:15 “The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among you, from your countrymen, you shall listen to him.

Psalms 2:6-9 “But as for Me, I have installed My King Upon Zion, My holy mountain.”⁷ “I will surely tell of the decree of the LORD: He said to Me, ‘You are My Son, Today I have begotten You.’⁸ ‘Ask of Me, and I will surely give the nations as Your inheritance, And the very ends of the earth as Your possession.’⁹ ‘You shall break them with a rod of iron, You shall shatter them like earthenware.’”

Psalms 3:4 I was crying to the LORD with my voice, And He answered me from His holy mountain. Selah.

Psalms 15:1 O LORD, who may abide in Your tent? Who may dwell on Your holy hill?

Isaiah 42:1 “Behold, My Servant, whom I uphold; My chosen one *in whom* My soul delights. I have put My Spirit upon Him; He will bring forth justice to the nations.

Isaiah 53:6 All of us like sheep have gone astray, Each of us has turned to his own way; But the LORD has caused the iniquity of us all To fall on Him.

Zechariah 8:3 “Thus says the LORD, ‘I will return to Zion and will dwell in the midst of Jerusalem. Then Jerusalem will be called the City of Truth, and the mountain of the LORD of hosts *will be called* the Holy Mountain.’”

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.”

Luke 2:20 The shepherds went back, glorifying and praising God for all that they had heard and seen, just as had been told them.

Luke 7:22 And He answered and said to them, “Go and report to John what you have seen and heard: *the BLIND RECEIVE SIGHT, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, the POOR HAVE THE GOSPEL PREACHED TO THEM.*

Luke 9:30-31 And behold, two men were talking with Him; and they were Moses and Elijah,³¹ who, appearing in glory, were speaking of His departure which He was about to accomplish at Jerusalem.

Acts 4:19-20 But Peter and John answered and said to them, “Whether it is right in the sight of God to give heed to you rather than to God, you be the judge;²⁰ for we cannot stop speaking about what we have seen and heard.”

Acts 22:13-15 came to me, and standing near said to me, ‘Brother Saul, receive your sight!’ And at that very time I looked up at him.¹⁴ “And he said, ‘The God of our fathers has appointed you to know His will and to see the Righteous One and to hear an utterance from His mouth.’¹⁵ ‘For you will be a witness for Him to all men of what you have seen and heard.

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 John 1:1 What was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked at and touched with our hands, concerning the Word of Life

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.”