

2 Peter 1:16-21

Pay Attention

“But we have the prophetic word made more sure, to which you do well to pay attention.” (1:19)

What is true? What is false? Our lives are lived within an infinite stream of information and data. These are dangerous and deceptive times. Life is short, sacred, and serious. What should be the focus of my mind and heart’s attention? What merits my soul’s primary devotion?

Peter roots the truth of the passage in a specific event. The transfiguration of Jesus, to which he, James, and John were eyewitnesses. (See Matthew 17:1-13). This is an important context for what Peter says in verses 16-21. This preview of Jesus’ glory and His second coming was to be kept secret until after the resurrection

In our Savior Jesus Christ, God has revealed to us all we need for life and godliness. In the Bible, we have the core truths we need most.

Can we rely on the Word? Is our faith in a reliable authority?

Or should we look elsewhere? (John the Baptist in Matthew 11:1-6)

For this reason, we must pay closer attention to what we have heard (Heb. 2:1)

Pay attention to the Word of God because of its nature and work:

1. Visible Truth - *God has given us eyes to see*

- a. We were eyewitnesses of His majesty (v.16)
 - i. Visible signs and wonders were witnessed by Peter and the Apostles
 - ii. Read Psalm 19 and Isaiah 6 . . .where do we see God’s glory?
- b. Pascal: “I believe those witnesses who get their throats cut out.”

2. Audible Truth - *God has given us ears to hear*

- a. Such an utterance (voice) as this was made to Him by the Majestic Glory (v.17)
- b. We ourselves heard this utterance (voice) made from heaven
- c. What was the utterance? “This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased; listen to Him.”

3. Prophetic Truth - *God has given us mouths to speak*

- a. So we have the prophetic word made more sure: (v.19)
- b. In Peter's first letter, he referred to the prophetic words in key places:
 - i. Isaiah 40 and Isaiah 53 in particular
- c. To which you would do well to pay attention.
- d. The transfiguration and the life and ministry of Jesus confirmed what the OT prophets had been saying all along
- e. Therefore, OT Scripture is valid and authoritative: give it proper attention

4. Illuminating Truth- *God has given us hearts to feel*

- a. Scripture is like a lamp shining in a dark place
 - i. The darkness of the world, one's own heart, and dark situations
 - ii. "Remember in the darkness what you have seen in the light."
- b. Until the day dawns and the morning star arises in your hearts
 - i. This is a reference to the coming day of the Lord
 - ii. Expectancy and anticipation. Not something we will need forever
 - iii. A new day; a new beginning, a fresh start. a new creation
 - iv. Morning by morning until . . .The Bright and Morning Star appears
 1. Rev. 22:16- connect 2 Peter 3:10-12
 - v. And our hearts are warmed. and encouraged and edified by the Word
- c. 2 Cor. 4:6: God has shone in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ

5. Supernatural Truth - *God gave us souls to believe*

- a. No prophecy of Scripture is a matter of personal interpretation
- b. This is not by man, of man, or for man's glory; *not what we concoct, but receive; so we approach God's word with great expectations*
 - i. But of God and His will: prophecy is a divine work; from above . .
 - ii. Humanistic notions are corrupt and unstable . .untrue
- c. Men, moved by Scripture, spoke from God
 - i. God spoke, using the personality and style of human authors
 - ii. They were carried along . . like wind moving a ship across the water, lifting the sails . .
 - iii. "You cannot control the Holy Spirit, but you can lift your sails."
 - iv. Concursus: "Both human beings and God were involved" (BB Warfield)
 1. Divine activity working along with natural or human activity

6. Practical truth: *God has given us hands and feet to serve:*

- a. Carried along/Moved by the Holy Spirit (v.21)
 - i. Their lives were changed; they surrendered and were impacted in practical ways
- b. The Holy Spirit still carries us along, moving, shaping us all the way home
- c. He changes our direction and moves us forward, day by day and step by step, until the end.
- d. We are moved. .saved and sustained.
 - i. So get moving; put forth the effort . Be stirred up to add to your faith the qualities of v.1-11
- e. They were moved. This moves you. .energy and motion to BE and ACT

7. A Personal Truth: *God has given us a person to worship and love*

- a. We were with Him on the holy mountain. (v.18)
- b. Jesus took them up on the mountain to witness the transfiguration
- c. Jesus initiated this moment and the relationship.
- d. This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. Listen to Him!

“I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life.” (John 14:6)

He is Powerful: v.16

He is Lord: v.16

He is Christ: v.16

He is Majestic: v.16

He is Honorable and Glorious: v.17

He is Beloved Son: v.17

He is Favored: v.17

He is the bright and morning star. v.19 (Rev. 22:16)

Application and Response: Jer. 6:16

- Follow: repent and surrender, I have decided to follow Jesus
- Pay attention: concentrate on the Word (meditate; memorize; obey)
- Proclaim it to others. Share it! Romans 10:17

John Wesley, Glorious Things of Thee are Spoken:

Savior if of Zion's city, I through grace a member am

Let the world deride or pity, I will glory in thy name

Fading is the worldling's pleasure, all his boasted pomp and show

Solid Joys and lasting treasure, none by Zion's children know

