

"God Speaks About His Son"

Transfiguration

1)

2 Peter 1:16-21

2)

February 23, 2020

May the Lord direct your hearts into God's love and Christ's perseverance. (2 Thess. 3:5)

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

What is authority?

- In my house – mom or dad
- At my place of work – your boss
- In this country – elected officials and judges
 - o You wouldn't walk into the courtroom and say, "Excuse me, your honor. I object to your ruling."

The reason we want to think about "authority" is – when God speaks about his son, we listen. All of God's Word points and directs our attention to Jesus. This morning we want to think about God's Word as the absolute rule and authority for both our faith and our life.

To Peter on the Mountain (16-18)

Think about Peter's letter and his audience. He encouraged them –

- In their daily struggle against persecution in the Christian faith
- Watch out for false teaching that would threaten to lead them astray
- Always be watching and prepared for the Lord's second coming

How can Peter talk with so much confidence about these things? Wasn't Peter the one who –

- saw Jesus out in a boat, asked Jesus to walk on water, but started to sink when he took his eyes off of Jesus
- when confronted about his association w/ Jesus to be one of his followers – he swore up and down – "I don't know the man!"

Peter saw Jesus in all his glory! He tells us here –

16 We did not follow cleverly invented stories when we told you about the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses of his majesty. 17 For he received honor and glory from God the Father when the voice came to him from the Majestic Glory, saying, “This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased.” 18 We ourselves heard this voice that came from heaven when we were with him on the sacred mountain.

Peter knew all about the doubts and fears of life. Yet here he pleads with his hearers – you don’t have to have doubts and fears about “authority” b/c I myself am an eyewitness of who is the absolute authority.

Not only did Peter see Jesus in all his glory – face and appearance shone like the sun (Matt 17:2). He also heard from God the Father – **“This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased.”**

This is my Son – he’s more than just a carpenter and Mary’s Son from Nazareth; than the guy who fell asleep on a boat or wept at Lazarus’ funeral. This is God’s Son.

...whom I love – this would have been important for Jesus to hear – when he would find himself hanging from the cross, forsaken by God, paying for the sins of the world.

...with him I am well pleased – everything that Jesus did on earth – every thought, every word, and every action of Jesus was perfect and pleasing to God. And that is good news for us. God accepted Jesus as the perfect substitute – his perfect life and death in our place.

To the Prophets of Old (19a, 20-21)

If appearing to Peter wasn’t enough evidence about Jesus – that God speaks about his Son – he also gives us the prophets of old. That’s the second thought that Peter tells us here –

19 And we have the word of the prophets made more certain... 20 Above all, you must understand that no prophecy of Scripture came about by the prophet’s own interpretation. 21

For prophecy never had its origin in the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.

What is verbal inspiration?

The prophets and writers of Scripture didn't make up anything that they wrote down. It wasn't a myth or legend. Men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit. God told them what to write down and they wrote it down exactly word for word.

If that weren't enough...

- the Bible is the one book we have hundreds of copies for – more than any other ancient writings of the philosophers
- there weren't photocopiers. The scribes would take the original and then make copies, one right next to the other. These copies are word for word accurate and with singularity of thought and meaning
- hundreds of OT prophecies about Jesus – where he would be born and how he would die – came true

There are many people who say the Bible is a book of man-made stories and myths...a book full of mistakes. However, we can know without a doubt that God's Word can be and IS the sole rule for both our faith and life. We can have absolute certainty that what God says in the Bible is true.

This is most important for us when we're faced with the difficulties, worries and anxieties of life. We can trust that what God says in the bible is true – where God Speaks About His Son.

- Surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age. (Matt 28:20)
- Don't be afraid. (to the disciples, to the women at the tomb, to you and me)
- God is our refuge and strength in time of trouble. (Psalm 46:1)

To us through his Word (v. 19b)

God Speaks About His Son – also to us through his Word.
And he tells us in the second half of v 19 –

¹⁹ And we have the word of the prophets made more certain, and you will do well to pay attention to it, as to a light shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts.

We would do well to pay attention to it – I like to think of it this way – caution sign at McDonald’s for a slippery floor or the caution for high winds traveling over the Leo Frigo bridge. “Watch out” or “be careful.” This type of red flag might just save your life. Similarly, God wants us to pay attention to God’s Word, it will save your life.

We don’t want to miss what God’s Word has to say. Some say everything on the internet – Google or Wikipedia – must be true. We know that’s not the case. Not everything on the internet is true.

But the Bible? Everything God says is true. God Speaks about His Son in the Bible – and we would do well to pay attention to the facts – the good news of sins forgiven through Jesus’ life, death and resurrection.

What does it look like for God’s people to pay attention to God’s Word?

Psalm 1 – **“Blessed is the man (woman and child)...who meditates on God’s law (Word) day and night.** God’s Word is the biggest blessing in our life –

- When we’re faced with fears and worries
- When God speaks, we listen.
- God tells us about his Son
- Fear, sin, death – has been paid for and defeated.

Children, Husbands and Wives, families – would all do well to pay more and more attention to God’s Word.

Throughout Lent we’ll need this glimpse of God’s glory shone in Jesus. Amen.

The peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Amen. (Phil.4:7)

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