WHY WE BELIEVE
2 PETER 2:16-21 / 2-26-20 / WED

I. OUR FAITH IS BASED ON EYEWITNESS TESTIMONY.

A. This is the first thing Peter says—1:16a.

2 Peter 1:16a
For we did not follow cleverly devised stories...

B. Instead, Peter claimed that he and the other apostles were truthful eyewitnesses of what Jesus did and said—1:16.

1. As an example of their faithful testimony, Peter referred to the Transfiguration of Jesus that is found in Matt 17, Mark 9 and Luke 9—1:17.

2. Peter confirmed that he was there and saw the majestic Jesus as well as heard the voice from heaven—1:18.

C. What does this mean for us today?

1. There are only two possibilities.

   a. Either he, and the other apostles, are telling the truth about Jesus.

   b. Or they were doing the very thing Peter said they were not doing, i.e. making up myths!

2. Since all the disciples, except for John, died as martyr’s declaring that Jesus is indeed the Son of God, there is only one reasonable conclusion. They are telling us the truth.

II. OUR FAITH IS NOT ONLY BASED ON EYEWITNESS TESTIMONY BUT ALSO ON THE ACCURACY OF O.T. PROPHECY.

A. This is the second line of proof Peter gives for the basis of our faith—1:19a.

2 Peter 1:19a
19 We also have the prophetic message as something completely reliable...

1. There are 61 confirmed prophesies that Jesus fulfilled during his earthly ministry and all the rest will occur when he comes again.

2. Peter challenges us to study these prophecies for ourselves to know they confirm the truth about Jesus—1:19b.

2 Peter 1:19b
.... We also have the prophetic message as something completely reliable, and you will do well to pay attention to it....

3. Peter says these prophecies serve as a light focusing on Jesus until he comes again—1:19c and Rev. 22:16.

2 Peter 1:19
...as to a light shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts.

B. Peter reveals the origin of these prophecies about Jesus.

1. They do not come from the prophet’s own ideas or interpretations—1:20.

2. Instead, Peter reveals that these prophecies had their origin not in the prophets but in God the Father and the Holy Spirit—1:21.