

II Peter: Lesson #84 – Established in the Truth

Notes for Parents to Study With Their Children

For Sunday, Mar. 22nd

Read II Pet. 1:12-21 (a simplified explanation of the text will be supplied at the end of these notes).

Memory Verse: II Pet. 1:21 “For prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit.”

Why We Have God’s Truth in the Bible

- Why do we have the Bible? Why is it God’s Word? All through history God has chosen certain men to speak His Word. God’s Holy Spirit moved men to speak what God wanted them to say.
- We remember how Jesus appointed the apostles. These apostles went about with Jesus for three years following Him and watching His life. He told the apostles He would send them the Holy Spirit to guide them into all truth. The Holy Spirit came upon all the apostles, and they went out preaching God’s Word.
- But the apostles would not live forever. Peter said “I know that soon I will lay aside my earthly tabernacle...” Like all of us, Peter had a spirit and a body. That spirit is the most important part of us because it was made in the image of God. The body was like a tent that the spirit dwells in. Peter knew that pretty soon his body would die.
- Since Peter knew he was going to die, what did he do to make sure that future generations, like ours, could study what God had revealed? Peter said he wrote this epistle “to remind them of these things...so that after I die, you will have something to help you remember.” We can read what Peter said and know all about Jesus and what He wants us to live like.
- Matthew wrote, John wrote, Peter wrote, and Paul wrote. These apostles are all dead, but we can keep reading their teaching. That’s what the Bible is, a book with the teachings that God inspired men to preach. It has everything God wanted us to know about His will.

Peter Reminds Them That the Story of Jesus Was True

- Peter and the other apostles preached about Jesus. The story of Jesus tells some amazing things. Jesus did many, many miracles – He changed water into wine, healed the sick, walked on water, calmed the storm, and even brought the dead back to life. Most amazing of all after He died, Jesus came back to life. Peter preached that Jesus ascended to heaven where He sits at God’s right hand and is King of Kings.
- One of the things that Peter wanted to make clear before He died was that these things He had said about Jesus were true. Peter said that he and the other apostles did not make up clever stories about Jesus, but they were eye-witnesses of everything Jesus did. Do you know what an eye-witness is? If a crime is committed, the police will look for people who saw the crime happen, people who are eye-witnesses. An eyewitness is someone who was there to actually see what went on. Peter was an eyewitness to all that Jesus did, to the fact that He died, and could say without question that Jesus resurrected from the dead.

The Transfiguration Really Happened

- Do you remember the story about Jesus that is sometimes called the Transfiguration? This is where Jesus took Peter, James and John with Him to a mountain. There Jesus was transfigured, or changed in what He looked like. [Parents, I encourage you to read them the story from Matt. 17:1-8; Mk. 9:2-8; Luke 9:28-36]
- Peter saw some amazing things that day?
 - As Jesus prayed, the appearance of His face was altered. It was shining like the sun.
 - His clothing became white like snow or like light. It was glistening.
 - Moses and Elijah appeared and talked with Jesus about His death.
 - Peter said they should build three tabernacles – one for Jesus, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.
 - But while he said that a bright cloud came over them.
 - Then a voice spoke from the cloud saying, “This is My beloved Son in whom I am well pleased, Hear Him!”
 - Peter James and John fell on their faces out of fear.
 - When the voice stopped, they looked up and found Jesus standing alone.
- Years later Peter was writing the letter we are studying and he said about Jesus, “For He received from God the Father honor and glory when such a voice came to Him from the Excellent Glory: "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased." And we heard this voice which came from heaven when we were with Him on the holy mountain.”
- Peter emphasizes that this is a true story. It really happened. He and James and John all saw it take place.

The Prophets Pointed to Jesus

- Peter also said that the story of Jesus had to be true because all through the Old Testament, prophets had been telling about His coming. There are at least 300 different prophecies starting in Genesis and going through Malachi that said Jesus was coming. These prophecies told that...
 - Jesus would be born as a descendent of Abraham, would come from the tribe of Judah, and would also be a descendant of David.
 - Jesus would have a special birth and would be born of a virgin.
 - Jesus would be born in Bethlehem.
 - Jesus was be born to become the greatest of all Kings.
 - The way would be prepared for Jesus by a special messenger (John the Baptist).
 - Jesus would do a great work in Galilee.
 - Jesus would heal the sick.
 - Jesus would be rejected by the Jewish leaders.
 - Jesus would be betrayed by a friend for 30 pieces of silver.
 - Jesus would be mocked and mistreated but would remain silent.
 - Jesus would be beaten.
 - Jesus’ hands and feet would be pierced (in crucifixion).

- Jesus would be made fun of by people looking at Him as He was dying.
- Jesus would be put to death with criminals.
- Men would gamble for Jesus' clothing.
- Jesus' death would be to take away our sins.
- Jesus would be buried in a rich man's tomb.
- Jesus would be resurrected.
- Jesus would ascend up into heaven to God's right hand.
- Jesus would be given all authority as King.
- Jesus would become our High Priest.
- People from all nations would follow Jesus.
- Peter said that we should let these prophecies shine in our hearts to help us understand that the story of Jesus was true.
- All the prophets that gave us the Bible spoke, not from their own ideas, but they spoke because the Holy Spirit caused them to speak and write what God wanted them to say. That helps us to know that our Bible came from God. It is not man's ideas, it is truly God's Word.

Simplified Explanation of the Text

Peter Reminds Them About the Truth

1:12 I will not neglect to always remind you of these things, even though you already know them and are standing firm in the real truth which is continually with you.

13 But I consider it the right thing to do, as long as I am in this tabernacle, to stir up your memory.

14-15 Now I know that soon I will lay aside my earthly tabernacle, even as our Lord Jesus Christ clearly showed me, but I want to make a diligent effort to write to you about these things so that after I die, you will have some things to help you remember.

What Had Been Recorded About Jesus Was Really True

16 When we informed you about the power and arrival of our Lord Jesus Christ, we weren't following clever imaginary stories. Remember, we saw His greatness with our own eyes.

17-18 For when James, John and I went with Jesus to the Mount of Transfiguration, He received glory and honor from God the Father. A voice came out from the majestic glory speaking about Him, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well-pleased." And we heard that voice which came from heaven.

Old Testament Prophecy Proves Who Jesus Was

19 We also have the words of prophecy to make this even more certain. You would do well to pay special attention to those prophecies as if they were a lamp shining in a dark place. They are there to give their little bit of light, until day could dawn and the morning star rises in your hearts.

20-21 Concerning those prophecies, we know, first of all, that no prophecy in Scripture ever came from someone's own effort to unravel truth, because none of those prophecies

of ancient times ever came by man's will, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit.