

# The Foundation of our Faith

II Peter 1:12-21

Introduction:

- Peter's sense of responsibility and urgency in reminding believers of the truth- v. 12-15
  - Repetition is the mother of learning
  - There is nothing new under the sun- we simply forget truth, or forget to apply it regularly! For this reason, Christians should never get tired of hearing the basics of the Christian life.
  - Established in the present truth: Established is the same word translated strengthen in Luke 22:32, when Jesus told Peter "when you have returned to Me, strengthen your brethren." Here, Peter fulfilled that command of Jesus. He would establish and strengthen us by reminding us of the basics of the Christian life.
- Peter knew his time left was short- v. 13-15
- Peter considered his body no more than a tabernacle/tent. A tent is a temporary place to live. Tents should be taken care of, but you wouldn't invest large resources into fixing up a tent. You save your real resources for a more permanent place to live. Our more permanent place to live is heaven, and we should invest more in heaven than in our tent – our physical body.
  - How did Peter know that shortly I must put off my tent? Perhaps it was because Peter was simply getting old. Perhaps it was because the flames of persecution were getting hotter around him. Church history tells us that Peter did die a martyr, just as our Lord Jesus Christ showed him (John 21:18-19).
- This shows that Peter believed that the prophetic words of Jesus were to be fulfilled literally. He would be martyred- some historical traditions say he was crucified and asked to be crucified upside down
- After my decease: Peter seemed aware of the significance of the passing of the apostles and the need to preserve the authoritative teaching of the apostles and prophets. The

written teaching of the apostles is the foundation of the church (Ephesians 2:20 And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone;)

#### **I. THE CERTAINTY OF OUR FAITH**

- a. Acts 2:42- the Apostles doctrine in which we are to continue in as NT believers
- b. The surety of apostolic testimony. (2Pe 1:16-18) The evidence eyewitnesses
- c. Peter solemnly declared that the testimony of the apostles was not based on clever fables or even half truths, but on eyewitness testimony; that they were eyewitnesses of His majesty. They endured torture and gave their lives for this testimony!
- d. Fables translates the ancient Greek word mythos. Some people think the Gospel and the Biblical record are just ancient myths. They may admire their power as myths, but Peter rightly insisted that his message was no myth. It was history!
- e. We can reliably reconstruct historical events from the testimony of eyewitnesses, who must be checked for truthfulness (courtroom). The apostles and writers of the New Testament have been checked for centuries and have been found truthful.
- f. The evidence for Christ and his public ministry, and his death and resurrection are astounding!
  - i. At this time there were still living eyewitnesses (they would have put a total end to the Christian faith)
  - ii. The tomb is still empty...
- g. When did Peter witness the majesty of Jesus? There were many occasions, but one probably stuck out in his mind: the transfiguration of Jesus, recorded in Matthew 17:1-8, Mark 9:1-9, and Luke 9:28-36. Peter quoted here what God the Father said to Jesus at the Transfiguration: "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased."
- h. Moses and Elijah appeared along with Him- they represented the Law and the Prophets- and Jesus was far greater than both!

- i. Points to the future revelation in which there will be no doubt (Philippians 2:7-8)
- II. THE BEST WITNESS FOR OUR FAITH- V. 19-21**
- a. The recorded prophecy- the written word of God
  - b. Peter's experience at the transfiguration was amazing. But the testimony of God's word about Jesus was even more sure than Peter's personal experience. The fulfillment of the prophetic word confirmed is a certain, reliable testimony of the truth of the Scriptures. (O.T.) Jesus often said, Have ye not read?
  - c. Consider the evidence of fulfilled prophecy in the Bible
  - d. Which you do well to heed: When we consider the prophetic testimony to Jesus, we do well to heed it. There are at least 332 distinct Old Testament predictions regarding the Messiah that Jesus fulfilled perfectly.
  - e. "Taken according to the common translation, it seems to say that prophecy is a surer evidence of Divine revelation than miracles; and so it has been understood." (Clarke) Illustr- Rich Man and Lazarus Luke 16- They have Moses and the Prophets!
- III. THE FOUNDATION OF OUR FAITH- V. 20-21**
- a. "God said it and I believe it and that settles it for me!"
  - b. Illustr- the importance of a foundation (leaning tower of Pisa)
  - c. (2Pe 1:20-21) Principles for prophetic assurance.
  - d. No prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation: This refers to the origin of the Bible. When God used these men to pen down Scripture they did not write down their private opinions or conclusions of certain events, but the very words God wanted them to write. Illustr- Not just Paul's opinion feminists!
    - i. Application-In our bible interpretation (hermeneutics) there can be no secret revelation. RC say this is the right of the Church alone.
    - ii. Some like to twist and misuse scripture. Even in Peter's day enemies of Jesus twisted Old Testament prophecies, giving them personal and bizarre meanings attempting to exclude Jesus from their fulfillment. But

Peter says that prophecy is not of any private interpretation; its meaning is evident and can be confirmed by others.

- e. Holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Spirit: The ancient Greek word translated “moved” has the sense of carried along, as a ship being carried along by the wind or the current
- f. II Tim 3:16

Conclusion:

- Men do not reject the Bible because it contradicts itself, but because it contradicts them.
- Here we see the OT prophecy linked with the NT doctrine given by the Apostles which they wrote down as well
- We believe in the verbal plenary inspiration of Scripture- not just dynamic equivalence as used in the modern versions.
- We believe in the preservation of Scripture. Jesus said, Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away.
- What good is inspiration without preservation?
- We believe the KJV is the culmination of translation work before it, and has stood the test of time for English speakers since its completion.
- This is the foundation of our faith- God’s Holy Word!
- The best witness of the truth- v. 19-21
  - The claim of the Bible regarding itself is very important. We should take the Bible at its word!
  - This is one of the key distinctions we have as Baptists, and as fundamentalists. That has become a dirty word, especially with the rise of Islamic Terrorism.
- We would never read the newspaper the way some say we should read the Bible.
- We should read our Bibles more than the newspaper!