

August 20, 2017

Practicing Our Readiness Drills for Christ's Return - Seeking God's Guidance from 1st and 2nd Peter

Sermon Topic: Why Should We Trust the Apostles' Testimony?

2 Peter 1:16-18

For we did not follow cleverly devised myths when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses of his majesty. For when he received honor and glory from God the Father, and the voice was borne to him by the Majestic Glory, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased," we ourselves heard this very voice borne from heaven, for we were with him on the holy mountain. (ESV)

- Theme of 2nd Peter: Defend yourselves with biblical knowledge and spiritual maturity against the deceptions of false teachers.

Introduction: Is your testimony of a changed life sufficient for you or anyone else to believe the gospel is true?

Critical Point #1 We do not need anything more than what we already have in Jesus Christ.

2 Peter 1:3 His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us to his own glory and excellence, (ESV)

Critical point #2 The more we grow in Christ the greater our defense against deception.

2 Peter 1:8 For if these qualities are yours and are increasing, they keep you from being ineffective or unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. (ESV)

Critical Point #3 We need to know without a doubt that we are saved in order to resist the confusing Satanic doubts regarding our salvation and eventually surrender to his will.

2 Peter 1:10 Therefore, brothers, be all the more diligent to confirm your calling and election, for if you practice these qualities you will never fall. (ESV)

Critical Point #4 What we think about and let our minds dwell on impacts our daily lives and behavior positively and negatively.

2 Peter 1:12 Therefore I intend always to remind you of these qualities, though you know them and are established in the truth that you have. (ESV)

Critical Point #5 Believers need to be confident that their source of truth is trustworthy and never changes.

- Satan loves to dazzle people with intriguing and tempting alternate truths (that are obviously lies).

For we did not follow cleverly devised myths See additional notes

- The false prophets Peter was fighting against likely accused him of making up his gospel out of thin air.
- The content of Peter's teaching was the facts and promises of God concerning the Second Coming (Parousia) of our Lord Jesus Christ. **when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ,** These truths empower all believers to remain faithful to the Lord and cause people to put their trust in Christ instead of human deceivers.
 - Matthew 24:30-31 Then will appear in heaven the sign of the Son of Man, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. And he will send out his angels with a loud trumpet call, and they will gather his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other. (ESV)
 - Revelation 11:15-19 Then the seventh angel blew his trumpet, and there were loud voices in heaven, saying, "The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ, and he shall reign forever and ever." And the twenty-four elders who sit on their thrones before God fell on their faces and worshiped God, saying, "We give thanks to you, Lord God Almighty, who is and who was, for you have taken your great power and begun to reign. The nations raged, but your wrath came, and the time for the dead to be judged, and for rewarding your servants, the prophets and saints, and those who fear your name, both small and great, and for destroying the destroyers of the earth." Then God's temple in heaven was opened, and the ark of his covenant was seen within his temple. There were flashes of lightning, rumblings, peals of thunder, an earthquake, and heavy hail. (ESV)
- How does Peter know that Jesus will indeed be coming in power and glory? Because he was a personal eyewitness of it along with James and John. **but we were eyewitnesses of his majesty.**
 - Matthew 17:1-8 And after six days Jesus took with him Peter and James, and John his brother, and led them up a high mountain by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became white as light. And behold, there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, talking with him. And Peter said to Jesus, "Lord, it is good that we are here. If you wish, I will make three tents here, one for you and one for Moses and one for Elijah." He was still speaking when, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them, and a voice from the cloud said, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him." When the disciples heard this, they fell on their faces and were terrified. But Jesus came and touched them, saying, "Rise, and have no fear." And when they lifted up their eyes, they saw no one but Jesus only. (ESV)
 - If you didn't believe Peter's testimony, an apostle who was willing to be crucified upside rather than denying this truth, then ask James. Oh ya, he already died for this truth. Then ask John.
- Why does Peter say he saw Jesus' Second Coming personally when it hasn't happened yet? Because what Peter saw on the Mt. of Transfiguration was a preview of what was yet to come.
 - An analogy: Say Kim Jung Un told the world he was going to go to war with the U.S. on Easter Sunday 2018 and attack the weak and pathetic Christian nation to destroy it for all time. Let's

say President Trump took you on a tour of all our anti-missile batteries and our Trident Ballistic missile submarines (one of which is parked in the south China Sea) and took you on a tour of all of our ICBM silos and B1B bombers and told you that we have 6,800 nuclear weapons of which 1,800 are currently on standby to be used against Kim Jung Un's 10 nuclear weapons. After that dramatic tour would you be able to say, "When N Korea goes to war with us, we will without a doubt win that war?"

- What if the Pentagon showed you one of their visual displays on a large screen of what would happen if such an event occurred and you saw Pyongyang and all other cities in NOKO destroyed?
- In a similar way this is what Peter saw that day on Mt. Hermon(?) Peter could say "I have just seen with my own eyes how the world is going to end. It's not going to be pretty for the soldiers of Satan but glorious for the soldiers of Jesus.
- What further evidence did Peter receive to know that Jesus will be victorious over all his enemies (including false teachers)? He heard the Father (you know the one) who confirmed that this was the same Jesus mentioned in Psalm 2. **For when he received honor and glory from God the Father, and the voice was borne to him by the Majestic Glory, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased," we ourselves heard this very voice borne from heaven, for we were with him on the holy mountain**
 - Psalm 2

Why do the nations rage and the peoples plot in vain? The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the LORD and against his Anointed, saying, "Let us burst their bonds apart and cast away their cords from us." He who sits in the heavens laughs; the Lord holds them in derision. Then he will speak to them in his wrath, and terrify them in his fury, saying, "As for me, I have set my King on Zion, my holy hill." I will tell of the decree: The LORD said to me, "You are my Son; today I have begotten you. Ask of me, and I will make the nations your heritage, and the ends of the earth your possession. You shall break them with a rod of iron and dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel." Now therefore, O kings, be wise; be warned, O rulers of the earth. Serve the LORD with fear, and rejoice with trembling. Kiss the Son, lest he be angry, and you perish in the way, for his wrath is quickly kindled. Blessed are all who take refuge in him. (ESV)

Application

- What if you were on the Mt. of Transfiguration with Peter? Would you be more sure of Christ's coming victory over all super-powers and demonic enemies? Why moreso than now? Your children or grand-children will someday question the authority of Scripture. How will you re-assure them this book is absolute and cannot and will not ever be proven false?