

Scripture: Source of Flourishing

July 28, 2019



Open: How do we know that what we believe to be true is in fact true?

Read: 2 Peter 1:16-21

Discuss:

1. What beliefs do people have today that might be considered “cleverly devised myths” (v. 16)? Why do you think it was important to Peter to assure his readers that what he had taught them was not based on myths? What convinces you that your faith is not based on a myth?
2. The incident Peter refers to in verses 16-18 is recorded in Mark 9:2-8. **Read Mark 9:2-8.** Why do you think that made such an impression on Peter? **Read Luke 1:1-4.** What intentions do Luke and Peter have in common? How do their testimonies serve us today?
3. Peter believes that the written Word of God (the prophetic word) is even more reliable (“fully confirmed”) than even the testimony of eyewitnesses. Based on Peter’s contextual flow, why do we do well to “pay attention” to Scripture? What do you think Peter means by the phrase “until the day dawns” (v. 19)? What are some risks of being biblically ignorant?
4. According to verses 20-21, how should we understand the process by which we received our present Scriptures? What does Peter mean in verse 20 regarding someone’s own interpretation? How do we discern writing by men being carried along by the Holy Spirit as opposed by those who are not?
5. How is the last phrase of verse 21 really at the center of Peter’s argument in this passage? How would you connect it with the first eight words of verse 16? How does it support Peter’s exhortation in verse 19 to pay attention to the prophetic word? In what way does this encourage you in your relationship to the Bible?

Apply: What will you do to grow deeper in God’s Word this week?

Pray: Pray that God opens our eyes to understand fully the truths that have been placed in His Word. Pray for our people to be motivated and disciplined to be devoting themselves to growing in their understanding of this revealed truth. Pray against the spiritual warfare that will undoubtedly accompany such progress in our church family.

2 Peter 1:16-21

¹⁶ 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. ¹⁷ 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," ¹⁸ we ourselves heard this very voice borne from heaven, for we were with him on the holy mountain.

¹⁹ And we have the prophetic word more fully confirmed, to which you will do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts, ²⁰ knowing this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture comes from someone's own interpretation. ²¹ For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit. (ESV)

Mark 9:2-8

² And after six days Jesus took with him Peter and James and John, and led them up a high mountain by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, ³ and his clothes became radiant, intensely white, as no one on earth could bleach them. ⁴ And there appeared to them Elijah with Moses, and they were talking with Jesus. ⁵ And Peter said to Jesus, "Rabbi, it is good that we are here. Let us make three tents, one for you and one for Moses and one for Elijah." ⁶ For he did not know what to say, for they were terrified. ⁷ And a cloud overshadowed them, and a voice came out of the cloud, "This is my beloved Son; listen to him." ⁸ And suddenly, looking around, they no longer saw anyone with them but Jesus only. (ESV)

Luke 1:1-4

¹ Inasmuch as many have undertaken to compile a narrative of the things that have been accomplished among us, ² just as those who from the beginning were eyewitnesses and ministers of the word have delivered them to us, ³ it seemed good to me also, having followed all things closely for some time past, to write an orderly account for you, most excellent Theophilus, ⁴ that you may have certainty concerning the things you have been taught. (ESV)