



SERMON QUESTIONS

2 Peter 1:12-20 – The Word You Should Trust | February 19, 2017

GATHERING

1. What are your earliest remembrances of reading the Bible? Was it something that you did as a child or is it a new thing?
 2. What have been your biggest struggles with scripture: meaning, relevance, truth or time to absorb?
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LOOKING AT THE TEXT

In this section, Peter moves into the heart of his letter and it is clear that he is writing with both urgency and concern. His urgency comes from the knowledge that he will die soon. Most likely he is a prisoner of Emperor Nero and will be martyred. His concern is that the church continue to be faithful after he dies. In particular he knows that there are false teachers who doubt Peter's authority and have begun twisting the message. They do not believe that Jesus will return or that there is a Day of the Lord or that God will judge anyone's actions (particularly theirs). So Peter wants the church to know why he has such confidence in Jesus. He shares his eyewitness account on the Mount of Transfiguration and his understanding of Old Testament prophecy.

Our concerns with scripture are not the same as Peter's but his defense can help us understand the reliability of the Bible.

Read 2 Peter 1:12-18

1. What does Peter say he is doing in this letter? Why is this such a concern? How do you think Peter knows this? (Check John 21:15-19)
2. Peter relates the story of the transfiguration and says that he was an eyewitness. Why do you think he wants the church to remember this event? What was revealed at that time?
How does Peter's own martyrdom speak to the truth of what he saw as a follower of Jesus?
3. The existence of the church - a group of people who continued to follow Jesus even after his crucifixion despite the threat of death - is one of the main defenses for the truth of the resurrection. **If the resurrection happened, how does that add weight to the reliability of the rest of scripture?**

Read 1:19- 21

1. How does Peter describe prophecy in verse 19?
 2. What does Peter say about the origins of a prophet's message? In what way is a scripture author's message divine and in what way is it human?
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FURTHER APPLICATION

1. Have you ever thought about what you would tell those around you if you only had a week to live?
2. How much do you trust scripture? Do you think that is evident in your day to day behavior?
3. How can you spend time in scripture this week?