

AUGUST 27, 2017
MISSION FEST

Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, to God who alone is wise, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen” (I Timothy 1:17)

Prelude

Silent Meditation

***Call to Worship & Salutation**

***Hymn of Praise # 53** **“Praise to the Lord, the Almighty”**

Our Confession of Faith **The Apostles' Creed**

Hymn # 705 **“I Know Whom I Have Believed”**

***Reading of Holy Scriptures** **II Peter 1: 19 – 21 (p. 1192)**

Sermon **The Sure Word of God”** **Rev. Wesley Brice**
Part 2

***Hymn # 59** **“Forever Settled in the Heavens”**

Mission Offering

Prayer

***Hymn #731** **“Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow”**

***Benediction**

Postlude

The Sure Word of God – Part 2

2 Peter 1:19-21 And so we have the prophetic word confirmed, which you do well to heed as a light that shines in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts; knowing this first, that no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation, for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit.

This year, 2017, we are made aware that God began to bring about a reformation of the Holy Catholic Church 500 years ago this coming October 31. The great blessing that we, as God's people, have is that we have a Book of Scriptures that we can fully trust. As Peter pointed out in the first part of this chapter that they, that is, the apostles had not cunningly devised fables when they made known to us the greatness, glory and power of our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore we can rest assured that this is true of the whole of Scriptures, for we shall learn this afternoon that Scripture never came simply by the will of man but holy men of God spoke as they were directed by the Holy Spirit. Therefore let us thus consider the comfort we have in that we can fully believe and trust in God's Holy Word. The cry of the Reformation still rings true this morning 500 years after the Reformers began the cry "Sola Scriptura" Scripture Alone.

A. And we have the prophetic word **confirmed**

1. Peter now tells us that the truth of the gospel is founded upon the prophetic word of the prophets
 - a. He does this to give assurance to the believer
 - (1) No need for us who believe to question the surety of our faith
 - (2) The fulfilled prophecies of the O T concerning Christ is ample evidence that Jesus was indeed the promised Messiah
 - (3) Only of God and Holy Scripture can this be said; *"Remember the former things of old, **For I am God, and there is no other;** I am God, and there is none like Me, Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times things that are not yet done, saying, 'My counsel shall stand, and I will do all My pleasure.'" (Isa 46:9-10)*
 - b. When Jesus used the prophetic word to explain that He was indeed the promised Messiah to the two disciples on the road to Emmaus, in a very real sense Jesus was confirming to the church the truthfulness of the whole of Holy Scripture.

Luke 24:25-27 *Then He said to them, "O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe in **all** that the prophets have spoken! Ought not the Christ to have suffered these things and to enter into His glory?" And **beginning at Moses and all the Prophets**, He expounded to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself.*

- (1) The whole of the Old Testament was all about Jesus

Heb 10:5-14 *Therefore, when He came into the world, He said: "Sacrifice and offering You did not desire, but a body You have prepared for Me. In burnt offerings and sacrifices for sin You had no pleasure." Then I said, "Behold, I have come — **In the volume of the book it is written of Me** — To do Your will, O God."*

- (2) The Sacrifices of the Old Testament only pointed to the coming Redeemer

Heb 10:8-1 *Previously saying, "Sacrifice and offering, burnt offerings, and offerings for sin You did not desire, nor had pleasure in them"(which are offered according to the law), then He said, "Behold, I have come to do Your will, O God." He takes away the first that He may establish the second. By that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all. And every priest stands ministering daily and offering repeatedly the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins. But this Man, after **He had offered one sacrifice for sins forever**, sat down at the right hand of God.*

- (3) Anytime we have fears or doubt we need only to turn to the Scriptures for both understanding and comfort
- (4) Christ Himself instructs us here to **"believe in all that the prophets have spoken"**
- c. What Peter is telling us here is that in Christ we have the prophetic word **confirmed**.
 - (1) Every prophesy concerning the coming Messiah was fully fulfilled in Christ
 - (2) What greater confirmation of the truthfulness of Holy Scripture could we have than this?
 - (3) When we read that Jesus *beginning at Moses* (beginning at Genesis) *and all the Prophets*, (Ending up with Malachi) *He (Jesus) expounded to them in **all the Scriptures** the things concerning Himself.*
- d. The fact that we know whom we have believed is based upon the truthful foundation of Holy Scripture, of which Jesus Himself gives witness that God's Word is truth itself John 17:17 *Sanctify them by Your truth. **Your word is truth.***
 - (1) What greater witness could we have than the one who is *"the way, **the truth**, and the life.* (John 14:6)
 - (2) What greater witness could we have than the very Word that became flesh, who alone amongst men was full of grace and truth.

John 1:14 *And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.*

John 1:17 *For the law was given through Moses, but grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.*

(3) This is why the Psalmist could say; -"Your testimonies which You have commanded are righteous and **very faithful**. (Ps 119:138)

2. Whereunto you do well that you take heed, that is, they are worthy of careful study and investigation
 - a. I cannot think of anything more important to the church than to consider the word of God carefully and fully
 - b. Peter calls it here a light that shines in a dark place

- (1) As natural men, outside of Scripture, we can have no understanding of God and our salvation
- (2) Scripture alone is that lamp that can give us understanding as to what the mind of God is
- (3) Scripture alone makes that which is unknown by man known to us by the Holy Spirit.
- (4) They make objects distinct which were before unseen;

1 Cor 2:13-15 *These things we also speak, not in words which man's wisdom teaches but which the Holy Spirit teaches, comparing spiritual things with spiritual. But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.*

- c. The Scriptures alone enables us to know many things which would be otherwise unknowable.
 - d. Until the day shall dawn, until Christ comes again in glory the Scriptures alone are to be our only guide.
 - e. The meaning is, that the beginning of right knowledge is to give the same credit to the holy prophets which is due to God.
3. Secondly, when Peter says, "We have," the prophetic word confirmed by using the plural, he is referring to himself and to **all** the other Apostles and their writings – that is, includes the whole of the New Testament Scripture
 - a. The apostles had the prophets as the source of their doctrine
 - (1) And the faithful was therefore able to search the scripture as the assurance that what the Apostles wrote was founded upon the Scriptures of the Old Testament
 - (2) Peter here is saying "not only do we have the witness of the Father who spoke from heaven on the holy mountain where our Lord was transfigured before them
 - (3) We also have the sure word of the prophets
 - b. The apostles were not merely sharing their personal opinions rather they are proclaiming this great truth, their witness of Christ is fully founded upon the prophetic words of Old Testament Scriptures
 - (1) Christianity is not a "new religion" separate from the teachings of the Old Testament
 - (2) What many in the church today have lost is this glorious truth, the Old Testament was not about Israel, it was about the coming Messiah, about our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.
 - (3) This is why the church in Berea could search the scriptures to verify whether what Paul was teaching was in agreement with the written word of God
 - c. Not cunningly devised fables
 - (1) That is the source of the worlds' religions and the source of the cults that pretend to be Christian
 - (2) God alone speaking in Holy Writ is alone the source of our most holy Christian faith
 - d. The Word of God was written by holy men of God who spoke as they were **moved by the Holy Spirit**.
 - (1) We can be assured this morning that prophecy never came by the will of man
 - (2) Thus we can rest assured the Holy Scriptures are infallible and without error for they are God Himself speaking to us in His written Word
 - (3) This is why we can say with the Apostle Paul, I know whom I have believed and I am **persuaded** that He is able to keep that which I've committed unto Him against that day.

What have we learned this morning? - The gospels, the witness of the apostles was not founded upon fables

The gospel of Jesus Christ is founded upon the whole of the prophetic word as revealed by the prophets of the Old Testament

The faith of the Christian church did not begin in the New Testament, it began when God said to Adam and Eve in the garden that the Seed of woman would crush the head of the Serpent. (See Gen. 3:15)

Death, hell and our guilt has been defeated by our Savior Jesus Christ, and because of Christ and who He is and what He did He will be able on that great day to "present us faultless before the throne of glory" (see Jude 24)

We know whom we have believed