

“How To Handle The Truth!”
2 Peter 1:19-21

Introduction:

1. This Morning, Let’s Head Back In Our Bibles To 2 Peter!
 - We Are Going To Look At The Last 3 Verses Of Chapter 1!
 - Where Peter Has Been Teaching Us The Importance Of Knowing The Truth & Being Grounded In The Truth!
 - And Here, He Points Us To The Source Of Our Truth!
 - The Scripture! The Written Word Of God!
 - Read 2 Peter 1:19-21
2. King Solomon Was Right, When He Said:
 - “Of Making Many Books There Is No End!” (Ecclesiastes 12:12)
 - There Are More Books In Existence Today Than At Any Time In Human History!
 - In 2010, Google Estimated That There Are Over 130 Million Unique Books In The World!
 - With So Many Different Authors!
 - With So Many Different Titles!
 - With So Many Different Publishers!
 - And With So Many Different Genres / Types!
 - Some Of The Different Kinds Of Books Are:
 - Non-Fiction / Poetry / Fiction / Science-Fiction / Historical- Fiction / Real History / Mysteries / Romance / Etc!
 - Whenever You Read A Book, It Is Important To Know What Kind Of Book It Is!
 - So You Know How To Handle It!
 - You Can’t Read History The Same Way You Read Romance!
 - You Can’t Read Fiction As If It Were Non-Fiction!
 - Otherwise, All Sorts Of Confusion & Problems Can Come About!
 - But There Is One Book – Out Of 130 Million Of Them – That Stands Out!
 - That Book Is The Bible!
 - It Is The Number 1 Best-Selling Book Of All Time!
 - With Probably More Than 5 Billion Copies Distributed Around The World!
 - It Has Different Kinds Of Literature Within It!
 - You’ll Find History / Poetry / Prophecy / Gospels / Parables!
 - The Bible Stands – Unique & Alone – Because More Than Anything Else, It Is Truth!
 - John 17:17 - “Thy Word Is Truth!”
 - And Because The Bible Is Such A Unique Book:
 - It Is Important To Know How To Handle Such A Book!
 - How To Handle The Truth!
 - And This Is What Peter Teaches Us Next:
 - In Order To Be Prepared For False Teachers / Teachings:
 - We Need To Know How To Handle The Truth!
 - Here’s How:

1. *Lean Upon The Word Of God!*

- 1:19a - “We have also a more sure word of prophecy!”
 - In 1:16, Peter Summarized The Message Of The Gospel!
 - He Called It: “The Power & Coming Of Our Lord Jesus Christ!” – Power / Purpose / Person!
 - And, To Prove To Us That This Message Was Reliable:
 - He Says That They Were “Eyewitnesses Of His Majesty” – Especially At The Transfiguration!
 - But, Their Personal Experience Is Not The Only Witness To The Majesty Of Jesus Christ!
 - No, Their Experience & Eyewitness Testimony Was Just The **Confirmation** Of A More Long-Standing Testimony:

- The Word Of God!
- So, In 1:19, Peter Says:
 - “Lean Upon The Word Of God!”
- Because Of It’s Confirmation!
 - “And We Are Having More Sure The Prophetic Word!”
 - “More Sure!”
 - For Thousands Of Years, The Old Testament Prophets Brought Messages About Both “The Power & Coming” Of A Messiah!
 - Who Would Deliver His People From Their Own Sin - And Establish An Eternal Kingdom In Glory!
 - And What Did Peter & James & John See & Witness At The Transfiguration?
 - A Glimpse Of That Eternal Kingdom & More Importantly, Their Eternal King & Savior!
 - And So, The Transfiguration **Confirmed** – For Them & For Us – The Truth Of The Old Testament Message!
 - Made Their Message “More Sure!”
 - The Message Of Jesus Christ – Both In The OT & NT:
 - **IE:** Is Like An Anchor!
 - Because Every Fulfillment & Every Testimony Is Like Another Giant Boulder That Is Placed On That Anchor – So That It Will Never Move!
 - And To Handle This Truth Properly:
 - Lean Upon The Word Of God!
 - Because Of It’s Confirmation!
- Because Of It’s Content!
 - “Prophetic Word!”
 - The Messages Recorded For Us By The Prophets In The OT:
 - Were Not Primarily About:
 - Themselves!
 - Current Events!
 - Morality!
 - But About Salvation!
 - Jesus’ Story Of The Rich Man & Lazarus - Luke 16:29-31 - “Abraham saith unto him, They have Moses and the prophets; let them hear them. / And he said, Nay, father Abraham: but if one went unto them from the dead, they will repent. / And he said unto him, If they hear not Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded, though one rose from the dead!”
 - And About A Savior!
 - John 5:39 - “Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me!”
- This Is The First Way To Handle The Truth:
 - Lean Upon The Word Of God!
 - Because It Alone Tells Us The Truth About Salvation & About A Savior – The Lord Jesus Christ!

2. **Look To The Word Of God!**

- 1:19b - “Whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts!”
 - Because The Bible Is So Unique - It Requires A Unique Response!
 - And Peter Tells Us That “Ye Do Well” – If / When – “Ye Take Heed!”
 - Do You Want To Do The Right Thing In Your Walk With God? Then “Take Heed” & Pay Attention To The Word Of God!
 - Hebrews 2:1 - “Therefore we ought to give the more earnest heed to the things which we have heard, lest at any time we should let them slip!”
 - Are You Paying Attention To God’s Word?
 - This Morning? On A Daily Basis? If So: “Ye Do Well!”

- Why Should We Look To The Word Of God?
 - Because Peter Compares God's Word To A "Light!"
 - Like Other Well- Known Passages!
 - This Is Why We Need To Look To God's Word:
 - Psalm 119:105 - "Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path!"
 - Proverbs 6:23 - "For the commandment is a lamp; and the law is light; and reproofs of instruction are the way of life!"
- How Should We Look To The Word Of God?
 - "As Unto A Light That Shineth In A Dark Place!"
 - Imagine A "Dark Place!"
 - Not Just Dark - But Dusty & Dirty & Dingy & Dangerous! This Is What That Word "Dark" Means! Like A Cave / Like A Cellar / Like A Basement!
 - Imagine A "Light That Shineth" In That Dark Place!
 - You Will Pay Attention To It, Won't You!
 - Pay Attention To:
 - The Source Of The Light!
 - The Shining Of The Light!
 - The Security Of The Light!
 - **IE:** On August 5th, 33 Miners Were Trapped ½ Mile Below The Surface Of The Earth In A Copper & Gold Mine In Chile! After 17 Days, They Finally Were Contacted By The Outside World! All 33 Men Were Alive & Well! Food & Supplies Are Now Able To Be Sent Down To Them - But They May Not Be Able To Get Out Until Christmas! Imagine How Precious A Little "Light" Is To Them!
 - This Is How We Should Look To The Word Of God!
- When Should We Look To The Word Of God?
 - "Until The Day Dawn, And The Day Star Arise In Your Hearts!"
 - There Will Come A Time, When The Light Of God's Word Will Be **Out-Shined** By The Presence Of A Greater Light!
 - This Points To The Literal & Personal Coming Of Jesus Christ!
 - How Long Should We Look To The Word Of God?
 - Every Day! Until We See Him Face To Face!
- Is This How You Handle The Truth?
 - Look To The Word Of God! As "A Lamp To Your Feet & A Light To Your Path!" And It Will Give You Hope!

3. **Learn About The Word Of God!**

- 1:20 - "Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation!"
 - Do You Want To Do The Right Thing In Your Walk With God?
 - Remember In 1:19, Peter Tells Us That "Ye Do Well":
 - If / When - "Ye Take Heed!"
 - And Pay Attention To God's Word!
 - Also If / When - You Are "Knowing!"
 - Some Things About God's Word!
- The Priority Of Learning!
 - Learning **About** God's Word Must Be A Priority In Your Life!
 - "Knowing This First!"
 - **You Must Think Right Before You Can Do Right!**
 - You Must Think Right About The Truth!
 - But What, In Particular, Are We To Know?
- The Principle Of Learning:
 - "That No Prophecy Of The Scripture Is Of Any Private Interpretation!"
 - The Key Principle To Remember About God's Word:
 - It Is Not Man's Word – It Is God's Word!
 - Not Just Some Of It!
 - Not Just Most Of It!

- But All Of It! All Scripture! Every Scripture!
- What Does “Private Interpretation” Mean?
 - Not Primarily Dealing With Interpretation!
 - But Dealing With The Origination Of Scripture!
- No “Prophecy Of The Scripture”:
 - Was The Explanation Of The Prophet - About What Did Happen Or Was Going To Happen!
 - They Didn’t Make Anything Up!
 - Wasn’t Their Own Ideas / Opinions!
 - But Was The Explanation Of God!
- This Is How We Need To Handle The Truth!
 - Know That This Book Is God’s Book!
 - It Is Not Just A Book About God!
 - It Is Not Just A Book For God!
 - It Is ***The Book From God!***
- Therefore, We Need To:
 - Make Sure We Discover What God Means In His Word!
 - Only One Meaning! God’s Meaning!
 - There Is Only One True Sense & Interpretation Of Any Scripture!
 - It Doesn’t Matter What It Means To You!
 - What Matters Is What It Meant To God!
 - Study & Learn! And Then:

4. ***Listen To The Word Of God!***

- 1:21 - “For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost!”
 - Here, Peter Backs Up His Statement In 1:20!
 - The Bible Is Not Man’s Words, But God’s Word!
 - We Need To Listen To / Submit To / Surrender To It As God’s Word! How Do We Know It’s God’s Word?
- Because Of The Initiation Of God!
 - “For The Prophecy Came Not In Old Time By The Will Of Man!”
 - Man’s Will / Desire Had Absolutely Nothing To Do With The Revelation Of God’s Word!
 - It Was Only By God’s Grace & Initiative That He Gave His Word / His Gospel / His Truth To Man!
 - Listen!
- Because Of The Instruments Of God!
 - “But Holy Men Of God Spake!”
 - The Bible Was Initiated By God Alone!
 - But He Did Use Men As The Instruments Of His Word!
 - These Approximately 40 Different Authors / And More Prophets Were All:
 - Chosen By God!
 - Consecrated To God!
 - Communicated For God!
 - “Men Were Simply The Instruments Employed In Delivering It To Us – The Channels Merely Of Its Transmission! They Delivered What They Received – Nothing More – Nothing Less – And Just As They Received It!” (John Lillie)
 - Listen!
- Because Of The Inspiration Of God!
 - “As They Were Moved By The Holy Ghost!”
 - This Is A Clear Description Of Inspiration!
 - How God Communicated His Word / Message To The Prophets & Writers Of The Bible!
 - “They Were Moved By The Holy Spirit!”
 - **IE:** Like The Wind Filling The Sails Of A Ship, And Moving It Forward To Its Goal &

Destination!

- Still Quite A Mystery To Us! But It Is The Truth!
- The Bible Was Inspired By God!
 - 2 Samuel 23:2 - "The Spirit of the LORD spake by me, and his word was in my tongue!"
 - 2 Timothy 3:16 - "All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness!"
- We Need To Listen To The Word Of God!
 - Because It Came Directly From Him!

Conclusion:

1. This Is How We Are To Handle The Truth!
 - The Truth Of God's Word!
 - Lean Upon It!
 - Look To It!
 - Learn About It!
 - Listen To It!
2. **IE:** In His Book, "The Wonders Of The Word Of God", Robert Sumner Tells Of A Man In Kansas City Who Was Severely Injured In An Explosion! His Face Was Badly Disfigured, And He Lost His Eyesight, As Well As Both Of His Hands! He Was Just A New Christian, And One Of His Greatest Disappointments Was That He Could No Longer Read The Bible! Then He Heard About A Lady In England Who Read Braille With Her Lips! Hoping To Do The Same, He Sent For Some Books Of The Bible In Braille. However, He Became Very Discouraged When He Discovered That The Nerve Endings In His Lips Had Been Destroyed By The Explosion. One Day, As He Brought One Of The Pages Of Braille To His Lips, His Tongue Happened To Touch A Few Of The Raised Characters And He Could Feel Them! Like A Flash, He Thought, I Can Read The Bible Using My Tongue! At The Time Robert Sumner Wrote His Book, The Man Had "Read" Through The Entire Bible Four Times!
 - This Man Knew How To Handle The Truth!
 - Do You?

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