

A More Sure Word of Prophecy

Welcome to Harvest Community Church

Series: Discernment for the Last Days

Text: 2 Peter 1:19-21 (NKJV & KJV)

From the time of the first century until now many people were luring believers into bizarre **revelations** and teachings that were unsubstantiated by the Word of God. Because their presentations were enticing, large numbers of people were being drawn away from the solid teaching of scripture into teaching that was off-base and no longer on point. They were also being drawn to strange spiritual **experiences**.

The same is true today. Many of the false teachers in our day are excellent communicators that will draw you in. Many churches no longer invite people to come and worship but to come to one of their weekend experiences. This is not an invitation to come and know God but to have an encounter. Many are coming to get a good **talk** or to get goose bumps. Both of these things are all about “**me**” and less about God.

God certainly wants to visit His people with amazing supernatural experiences. He tells us in His Word that this is a vital part of the working of the Holy Spirit in the church. We must understand that God only works in line with His **Word**. The false teacher of Peter’s day were fabricating stories to deceive people. Peter encountered some of the delusional teachings that the Gnostic teachers were giving and he was so alarmed by the way that these teachers were distorting scripture that he had to address it.

Peter, who was with Jesus, James and John on the Mount of Transfiguration made it clear that no experience had a **superior** revelation than the Word of God. **1 Peter 1:23-25, 2 Peter 1:16** Peter absolutely refused to follow the trend in his time of modifying scripture. He declared that there is no higher revelation to mankind than the Word of God. He said we have not followed “cleverly devised fables”. That word in the Greek is the word sophidzo. It describes something made up, concocted, fabricated, and invented. Peter was saying that false teachers were making up tales to appeal to their listeners. While this is happening among traditional churches there are false teachers that start entirely new religions **based** on Christianity. Great examples in our day would be the **Mormons** and Jehovah’s Witness.

There are actually teachers today that say that the Bible is a fragile house of cards that will eventually come down. That we must alter our message if we are to reach the next **generation** because they will not believe the Bible as it has been believed as the authoritative, infallible Word of God. This is heresy and a lie. The Scriptures are the center of our faith and the central focus of the **apostles’** teaching and preaching. **Romans 10:17, Romans 1:16** Jesus is the Living Word of God. He is our **Rock** and our Anchor. Those who anchor their faith in the Bible are building their lives on the Rock that will hold them through every season of life. Anyone who even suggests that the Bible is out of date is in **error**. Remember that the first thing that Satan did in the Garden of Eden was question the legitimacy of God’s Word.
Genesis 3:1 (NKJV & AMP)

Followers who trust leaders who do not uphold the reliability of the Bible will lead them to believe that the Bible is untrustworthy. Once people's trust in the Bible is diminished the "logical" conclusion is that the Bible is just another holy book among many others. This brings people to another conclusion that the Bible is not really God's Word but that it is just a book of suggestions and principles that are optional because they are just theories. This leads directly to deception.

Once the anchor is cut the ship will veer further and further off course until it is lost in a sea of confusion. In our age of information, we must remember that what we believe, endorse or publicly or privately teach will impact people for all of eternity. Traditional thinking is being challenged, contested, disputed and questioned on many fronts. We need to be careful that we do not become so open-minded that we allow our minds to become numb, deactivated and closed to the truth. When it comes to scripture, we must keep our heads on straight. We would do ourselves well to ask if the apostles were alive today would they recognize what we are learning, teaching and sharing. We must allow the Word of God to say what it is saying, instead of manipulating it to say what we want it to say.

Defective doctrine always has an inevitable aftermath. **2 Peter 1:16** The word for fables is the same root word where we get the word myths. Peter is saying that what errant teachers actually endorse and teach is closer to mythology than it is to truth. **1 Timothy 4:7** Paul connected fable-like teaching to endless genealogies and old wife's tales. The word endless demonstrates how far off a teaching can become when not attached to the anchor of scripture. Endless depicts something that is unrestrained, far-fetched and way off base. The idea is that teaching will go from bad to worse and if not brought back into balance there is no limit to the excess that can be entered into.

Paul also used the word profane to describe something so nasty that it should not even be allowed into someone's home. The word in the Greek is 'bebelos', which is a word that describes manure. What Paul was saying is that if these kinds of teachings are allowed, they will produce a stinking mess in the church and a person's life. This word was also used by the Greeks to describe someone who crossed a threshold without permission or an improper entrance into another realm. Some of these leaders were practicing other religions and exposed themselves to deception that had their roots in supernatural experiences that were not from God. They were real but not God-authorized. Today many try to mix the new age and occult with the Christian. It produces a mixture that is not of God. (Think yoga, meditation, Buddhism, Sataria)

Peter reminds us that as great as our experiences are, we have something more solid to build our lives on. (Remember Peter experienced the Transfiguration where he saw Jesus in all of His majesty) **2 Peter 1:19** He calls it a "more sure word of prophecy". This is a picture of something that is authenticated, verified, guaranteed, established and steadfast. Something that is proven so true that it carries legal authority. Peter was saying that God's Word carries more weight and authority than anything or any experience. Nothing compares to the absolute and unchanging truths of scripture.

Peter also describes scripture as a **light** that shines in a dark place.

2 Peter 1:19 (KJV& AMP) Scripture is a light that shines. This describes a lamp that shines continually that drives away spiritual and demonic darkness. Everywhere that we take the Word of God we carry the light into dark places. (Dark, dreary, murky, confusing) When the Word of God is proclaimed with purity, it acts in the same way a lamp does. It provides light, **illumination** and enlightenment into a dark place. The Word of God literally and spiritually transforms from darkness to light. God's Word drives out Spiritual darkness. This is true on a **personal** level, but the effect is greatly magnified when the life-giving light of scripture shines throughout society at large. It is a spiritual law that **truth** produces light.

We are to embrace the light of scripture in our life until like the sun it permeates and penetrates into every part of our life. Like the sun that first appears at dawn, the light appears **dim**, the longer it rises and the higher place it occupies in our life, the light grows brighter until the darkness is eliminated altogether. That is why Peter says it is to rise like the day star in our hearts. The more the Word of God is believed and the more widespread it becomes in a nation or society the more dramatically a person or a society is transformed by the light. This is why entire nations and communities were changed as the Gospel is preached.

The reverse is also true. The less people embrace and accept the Gospel the more the darkness begins to spread. This is what happens when the deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons are embraced in a country or region. We see this happening in the world today. A society that once had the knowledge of God and His Word move into darkness as God's Word no longer has a high and honored place. The lines between right and wrong become blurred because there is no light to see. This is what it is to be spiritually **blinded**. **2 Corinthians 4:4**

This idea of being **blinded** doesn't depict a person who is unable to see. It actually portrays a person who has been **intentionally** blinded by someone else who deliberately removed the individuals' eyes. Paul said Satan has blinded the minds of those who believe not. The word 'mind' is used to denote thoughts, reasonings, opinions, feelings, beliefs and views that a person or society holds. The apostle is saying that Satan has spiritually "gouged" out the spiritual eyes of unbelievers to such a degree that it has affected their ability to **see** things correctly. Their thoughts, reasonings, opinions feelings, beliefs and views are obstructed. As a result, they are blinded from the correct view of things and the way that things really are. If you have ever asked yourself – "can't they see"? The answer is "no they can't". The only way that they will be able to perceive what is going on is for the eyes of their **understanding** to be open.

Ephesians 1:17-19, Revelation 3:18

Because we live in the last days, we must wisely use the time to shine the light of God's Word into the hearts of those that Satan has blinded.