Devotion #233

**Reasons to Believe**

**2 Peter 1:16-21 (NASB)** *“For we did not follow cleverly devised tales when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses of His majesty. For when He received honor and glory from God the Father, such an utterance as this was made to Him by the Majestic Glory, ‘This is My beloved Son with whom I am well-pleased’— and we ourselves heard this utterance made from heaven when we were with Him on the holy mountain. So we have the prophetic word made more sure, to which you do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star arises in your hearts. But know this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture is a matter of one's own interpretation, for no prophecy was ever made by an act of human will, but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.”*

In our day of political and philosophical upheaval and when the meaning of truth is being so dismembered, it is important to remember that there is truth in this world in the reality of Christ Jesus and His Word. Since the fall of man, Satan has done all he can to remove truth from man. It was in the garden of Eden when he first tried to convince Eve that there was no truth by trying to trick her into thinking God was not God. (Genesis 3) And since then he has played that same game by working man against himself and using man’s sinful nature to create more and more confusion and distortion of the truth. It was no different in Peter’s day. There were many who tried to discredit him and the other apostles by inciting against them. The assertion was that they were proclaiming a message about a mere man, Jesus, and trying to make Him more than He was, all for monetary gain or power. But Peter says not to listen to their lies because He knew Jesus was who He claimed to be, because he was with Him. He saw His miracles. He was eyewitness to all He did, and he was proclaiming that Jesus is God. Later, the Apostle John would write the same thing. (1 John 1)

But as much as eyewitness accounts cannot be disregarded, there is an even greater reason to believe who Christ is - His Word. Notice Peter says in verse 19, “*We have the prophetic word made more sure.*”. What Peter meant by that is not only did the apostles see Jesus with their own eyes, but they had His Word as even greater evidence of His truth. The Greek construction of the phrase teaches that the Word of God, Sacred Scripture, is more credible than even personal experience. The written Word of God carries the weight of proof even beyond eyewitness testimony. Peter goes on to say that every person should listen carefully to that truth. And the reason they should listen is because no Scripture is of anyone’s own interpretation, meaning that God is the One who gave us the written word through the work of the Holy Spirit to move the hearts and minds of certain men to write what He revealed to them. That in itself is far more credible than even eyewitness testimony. The Lord has preserved His Word throughout the generations by His power. John MacArthur in his commentary on this passage said it this way, “The prophetic word (Scripture) is more complete, more permanent, and more authoritative than the experience of anyone.” (The MacArthur Study Bible.)

So think with me beloved. God has done so many marvelous things for us. But the two most important things He has done to verify the truth of His existence is to come to the earth and leave eyewitness accounts for all He did, but secondly and, even more powerfully, is He left us His written Word. John gives us the same meaning when he writes **John 1:1-5 (NASB)** “*In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being.In Him was life, and the life was the Light of men. The Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it*.” **John 1:14 (NASB)** *“And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we saw His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth*.”

Do you spend time reading, listening, studying, meditating upon the Scriptures? They hold all of the answers for all problems – yours, mine, the world’s. Don’t languish in despair or worry. Live in the truth of God’s Word and watch the peace of God flood your heart.