

WRITE IT DOWN!

How Do We Know?

A Firm Foundation: God's Word in a Facebook Age

2 Peter 1:16-21

Sunday, June 1, 2008

LISTEN UP!

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I. What the Bible is NOT (1:16-18)

- A. Eyewitness testimony
 - 1. God's presence on earth in time.
 - 2. People who were there.
- B. Yes, BUT...
 - 1. The apostles had an agenda...
 - 2. So much time...
 - 3. Transmitted and translated...

II. What the Bible IS (1:20-21)

- 1. The Word of God in the Bible is not _____. (20)
- 2. The Word of God in the Bible is _____. (21)
- 3. The Word of God in the Bible _____. (19)

III. What the Bible is ABOUT (1:16)

- A. What is the "majesty of Jesus"?
 - 1. Knowing Jesus is _____ . (2)
 - 2. Jesus gives us _____ to live for _____. (3)
 - 3. His _____ of a new _____ of life. (4)
- B. God's rulebook.
- C. What the Bible tells us about us.

THINK IT OVER

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1. Read 2 Peter 1:1-21, focusing on vv. 16-21 again. What's the issue or question Peter is trying to answer? Why is he telling them these things?
2. What proof does Peter give that his preaching is true in vv. 16-18? Part of Peter's argument is a quote from Psalm 2. (v.17) Why might which be important? What are the two angles Peter takes on this event in v. 17 and in v. 18?
3. In vv. 19-21 Peter takes a completely different tact in proving the truthfulness of his preaching. What is his line of argument? Is it a stronger or weaker argument for Peter than the ones in 16-18? Which argument is actually better?
4. What does it mean that the Bible is not "interpreted"? (v. 20) What does it mean that it's "inspired"? (v. 21)
5. What *is* the "majesty of Jesus"? (v. 16) What insight does the context of the whole chapter give in answering this question? What power does He provide us in our lives?
6. The Bigger Picture: Verse 4 talks about a "promise" in Christ. Compare and contrast the promise Peter talks about here with the promises we've been seeing in Galatians 3.

WORK IT OUT!

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1. What was new and most challenging for you in the text/message this week and why?
2. What sources of information compete with the Bible in your life personally, or in our busy lives today, to tell you about life, its meaning, how you should respond to it, etc? What kind of messages do they convey?
3. What kind of "cleverly devised tales" have you heard to explain the UN-trustworthiness of the Bible? How might you answer this objection based on the sermon/text this week?
4. If the Bible is a "lamp shining in a dark place," how much of it do we need to understand for the rocky crevasses of life? If it's inspired by God, how deep does it plunge into the complexities of who God is, who we are and how the two impact our lives?
5. Compare and contrast the difference of reading the Bible as about me versus reading the Bible as about Jesus. Why is it not helpful to read it as a rulebook? Why can it be helpful at times? If the Bible is not a rulebook, how do we know how God wants us to live?