

2 Peter 1:16 *For we have not followed cunningly devised fables, when we made known unto you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ but were eyewitnesses of his majesty.*

Our Title:- The Inspired Infallible Word of God and our Response to it.

This passage follows from the 7 graces that we looked at last week, those marvellous graces that clothe faith that adorn faith, prove and show clearly the presence of faith. Graces that every sincere believer wants, graces we desire to see and blossom and flourish in their lives. Yet for professor only, these Graces or Virtues are of no real interest. As the Scripture says - *Matthew 15:8* 'these people draw near to me with their mouth, and honor me with their lips, but their heart is far from me. They only draw near to God with their mouth and their lips, but their heart is far from Him. But those who love Him they want these graces Each one of them added to our faith.

Today we will begin at Verse 16 From this verse to the end of the Chapter The apostle Peter is preparing us for what lies ahead in the next chapter, that begins speaking about error and false teaching and all the problems that will be brought in by the attack of satan trying to water down the truth. So he first lays down a very clear foundation of how secure and infallible the Scriptures are. Scripture which is the only light in a dark world. The Exhortation is that we must hold fast to.

You would think that every believer would be like the Apostle in that He valued Gods Word, that It would be of priceless, loved and revered. **But alas the enemy of our souls causes people to have a low view of scripture.** *Attacks of the truth go right back to the Garden of Eden* to mans first parents Adam and Eve. The deceiver saying, did God say, Has God said. He always tries to get us to question Gods Word.

He wants believers to have a wrong view of Scripture. We must ask ourselves what do I think of scripture? In essence, this is what the Apostle Peter is wanting to know when he asks, *"Do you believe, do you think, it is a cleverly crafted fable?"* Do you think what I am presenting is like to one of those renowned storytellers just wanting to captivate the audience.

No says Peter It's not just a story. The Apostle Peter is saying what I'm announcing is Certain, I have the highest possible view of this. It's not just and invented Story it is certain and based upon a solid foundation. *For we have not followed cunningly devised fables.* He is saying that is why I'm so Diligent and so serious about proclaiming this good news of the Gospel, because it is the power of God - able to save the uttermost, mighty to save from the crippling guilt and from the filth of sin.

The word of God Peter Spoke is so compelling, it's like a interlocking puzzle where every piece fits perfectly together making a clear picture. No Fable teller could produce anything like the Word of God, that was compiled and inspired by the Spirit of God over centuries yet perfectly in harmony with itself. It's all interlocking and perfect. The Old Testament speaks of the coming Messiah. giving precise detail where He would be born. What manner of man He would be. The New Testament fulfils all the prophecies exactly. The Old Testament was written centuries before yet it is 100% accurate, it tells that Christ will be divine That He will be God as well as man. That he will atone for sin - that He will rise again from the dead. It speaks of it all so precisely. Its so much higher than even the best storyteller. The Bible is not just like any book its inspired and full of life.

*2 Peter 1:16 For we did not follow cunningly devised fables **when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ**, but were eyewitnesses of His majesty.*

They made known the Power of His coming, (speaking of His first coming) His work's of power. How he walked perfectly, how he performed so many miracles and healings.

They made Known - This provides further proof that Gods Word is inspired, that amongst all the authors and founders we see no variation of different opinions on any essential point of doctrine; whether the teachers of it were learned (like Luke or the Apostle Paul), or unlearned (like the rest of the Apostles), they were all of one mind. ***The reason is they were all taught of one and the same spirit.*** Also, we never find one of the inspired Apostles speaking with doubt upon any fundamental point: they knew and declared without hesitation, the same clear truth - that we are all guilty and helpless in ourselves, that we all need to be redeemed by the blood of Jesus Christ, that all renewed by the influences of the Holy Spirit, and all to be summoned to the judgment-seat of Christ, to receive according to what we have done in the body, whether it be good or evil.

They would not have all said the very same truth, if it were a cunningly devised Fable.

Then Peter tells of how they went up to the Holy Mount. How **He says we were Eyewitnesses of His majesty.** When they saw the transfiguration of Christ as we read in **Matthew 17:1-6**. His face did shine like the sun and his cloths were as white as the light. Behold there appeared unto them Moses and Eijah. Talking with them. Peter was so overwhelmed he said, Lord it is good for us to be here Let us make 3 tabernacles of tents one for thee and one for Moses and one for Elijah. While He spoke a bright cloud - *Can you imagine God brighter than the sun at noonday spoke from the brightness of the cloud.* And said, "This is my beloved Son in whom I'm well pleased." "Hear Him!" When the disciples heard it, they fell on their faces they were so afraid for they had never heard anything like that.

This majestic voice. The brightness of the cloud, They never would forget this. In **V18** The disciples are saying we heard the voice of the Father. *2 Peter 1:18 And we heard this voice which came from heaven when we were with Him on the holy mountain.* **So it's no fable- it's an actual event that they saw.** It's true and it's etched on their memories forever. Peter has proved, and spoken with certainty of the Saving doctrines, that every word of Christ true, that Jesus is Son of the Living God. They do this by their testimony, of the fact that had seen Christ's glory in his transfiguration and heard the Father's testimony of him.

Now Peter proves the infallibility (soundness and trustworthiness) **of the testimony of the prophets under the Old Testament.**

Verse 19 we read of a more sure word of Prophecy. *2 Peter 1:19 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.*

What does Peter mean when He says **a more sure word of Prophecy.** *All that the Old Testament prophets said was sure,* it was true and inspired of God. The Old Testament prophecies perfectly fulfilled in the coming of Christ. Perfectly fulfilled in the ministry of Jesus Christ, He reconciled lost man to God. The Old Testament spoke How Christ would be our sin bearer. **And now it's more sure,** everything said and written of Him in the Old Testament is fulfilled. The new endorsed the old and the Old Testament endorses the new. We have a more sure word of Prophecy. The New Testament is more sure to us because Christ has Come. The New Testament light and fulfilment illuminates the Old. It is sure that Christ will come again. The Scriptures are **inerrant**; the scriptures are **infallible**. The scriptures are the **ultimate authority**, because they are **inspired by God**. Therefore, they are as **accurate and reliable as God Himself**.

We must keep this in mind when making a choice in our daily life. We can either rely upon the scriptures or upon our personal experience. It's very clear that we are to chose to follow what the scriptures say for every decision, rather than our personal experience. Sadly, we often see people putting personal experience first making it the deciding factor in their lives. **Let me give you an example.** We see this with Mormons who say If you want to be convinced that Joseph Smith is a true prophet and the Book of Mormon is the Word of God you pray and ask God to give you and experience of a burning in the breast. When you get this experience, they say you will know that the book Mormon is true and Joseph Smith an immortal man. You can tell them the geography described in the book of Mormon doesn't even exist how can it be true, you can tell them Joseph smith isn't an immortal man, He isn't even true He lied under oath in court. They will say none of that matters, I have had an experience of a burning in the breast. That validates that it is true for me. It doesn't matter what the facts are. I believe based upon the feeling I had. Yet the

Bible clearly contradicts the book of Mormon. The Bible exposes Joseph smith as a fraud. If you compare the book of Mormon with the Bible clearly it's a fraud. Yet Scripture is not the final authority for a Mormon. The feeling is what is the final thing to them.

Personal Experience is never above what the Scripture teaches.

We see some believers when they are told of a certain Truth or doctrine. We could use any number of examples, but what about the importance of being part of a Local Church. *Hebrews 10:25 not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.*

They say things like, well I don't feel convicted over that, they say in my experience all the churches just want my money. it's as though they are exulting their feelings over the written Word. It's never Feelings that validate or invalidate Scripture.

Speaking of the surety of the Scriptures. The Scripture the more sure word. When the Apostle went to Berea He met a noble quality. *Acts 17:11 These were more fair-minded than those in Thessalonica, in that **they received the word with all readiness, and searched the Scriptures daily to find out whether these things were so.*** **For them Scripture alone determined what was true and what was not true.** For them this was the final measuring stick. The plumbline of truth. If what was said matched up with scripture they believed it. But if it doesn't match up, no matter how well they spoke no matter even if there were miracles they were not going to believe it. They refused anything that was not scriptural.

So, the scripture is the final authority in our lives. It is certain, perfect, divine, and unchanging established forever. Therefore, it would be the height of foolishness to have Perfect Scripture and ignore it. Thats why after Peter has set forth the certainty of Scripture, He then says **we need to Heed it.**

Everyone walks by some rule or principle. The question is what is the governing rule? Do they walk according to their **own feelings**, do feelings determine what we do and don't do. Do we walk and behave **according to our culture**, if everyone else is doing it, it must be fine. Do we walk according **to the rule of what is legal**, If what I'm doing will not end in a prison sentence then it must be okay. Do I walk to the rule of what is **expedient convenient and practical**. If it is going to fulfil my goals, then it must be okay.

Peter tells us that, **you do well to heed** as a light that shines in a dark place, **You do well** literally means **do Honestly**. The urgent requirement is that **we must be highly sincere with Gods word**. We never rush over it treating it lightly, we never ignore it, we never dismiss its commands, we are sure to do all its duties. We heed its reproof. **This is the highest duty of a Christian life** to be very sincere with Gods Word. Thats the meaning of the phrase **you do well to heed**.

Then Peter says as unto a light that shines in a dark place. He is telling us about the fallen world in which we live, a dark place, darkened regarding the truth, darkened regarding Wisdom, darkened regarding moral standards. The worldly are darkened. To them the Gospel is foolishness. *Psalms 82:5 They do not know, nor do they understand; They walk about in darkness; All the foundations of the earth are unstable.*

The wicked Walk in darkness. *Proverbs 4:19 The way of the wicked is like darkness; They do not know what makes them stumble.* Peter is saying that the believer doesn't have to walk in darkness, doesn't have to stumble. That there is a light that drives the darkness away. I'm sure one of our favourite scriptures *Psalms 119:105 Your word is a lamp to my feet And a light to my path.*

This is the answer for the dark world in which we live the Word of God our light to our path. The Light that drives away error and false teaching and wickedness. *God's word always right always rejoicing the heart, the Commandment of the Lord is pure enlightening the eyes.* Psalm 19:8. By Gods word we see, *Proverbs 6:23 For the commandment is a lamp, And the law a light; Reproofs of instruction are the way of life,*

God's word is the best light, Scripture is the brightest light. Far brighter than any experience. The trouble with experience is that it always fades. Remember when you went to primary school on the first day. For some it was a wonderful experience. You know you went but as time goes on the details fade. You can't really remember. But the scripture is always there always reliable, and unchanging we can look at it any time we can look at it even every day every minute and it's always fresh and always new.

The trouble with living by experience is that when it fades you seek a new one, and many times a better one. And we end up going into many excesses. But the Word of God is always true, always fresh, always more than enough. One more important point is.

2 Peter 1:20 *knowing this first, that no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation.*

We may ask the question well what then is the correct way to interpret the scripture. **Knowing first.** The first thing we must know, and settle is that God is the Author. Knowing God is the Author is the first rule of interpretation The Bible is Divine and inspired, and we shouldn't approach it with the same scientific or literary analysis we use for other books. *Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation.* **What does that mean?** Well, no prophecy, no word in the scripture is to be interpreted by unaided human intellect. The bible requires something far greater than just human intellect. When the prophets spoke it they didn't speak from their own intellect, and we can't interpret it by our intellect. **How do I know they spoke not by their own intellect.** 2 Peter 1:21 for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit. The Holy

Spirit inspired scripture and the Holy Spirit inspires us illumines our understanding to grasp spiritual truth. **John 14:17** *the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you.* We prayerfully and reverently read scripture in our devotional times

The first rule is this, you compare scripture with scripture. If we have a verse and we don't understand it, it's about a doctrine or something, and we're confused at its sense, then we go to other parts of the scripture that explain that same thing also, and we compare scripture with scripture. Today we can use online bible programs and easily see cross-references. We read Similar passages that say the same thing. We gain a deeper wider and richer understanding like this. Some passages give light on other passages. If we want to know what God is saying we listen here, and there, and in every part of the bible. Scripture interprets scripture. Also it's a great help, to gain an overview of all the main doctrines of faith, to know them, for example - We know that we are **saved by grace through faith**, Eph 2:8 We know we are **established by grace** Heb 13:9 that having **been justified by His grace** Titus 3:7 This truth is seen in many places in Scripture. so, we could use as an example when we are reading scripture, and we come across *James 2:21 Was not Abraham our father justified by works when he offered Isaac his son on the altar?* We don't think for a moment that we can be justified by works, for that is not consistent with what is taught as an overall truth of the Bible. We pause, We look at what the whole passage is saying. We read before and after to gain a good understanding. By looking at the verses before and after we see **James is not talking about how men may obtain righteousness**, but rather He is saying **that good works are always connected with faith**; and, therefore, when he declares that Abraham was justified by works, he is speaking of the proof he gave of his justification. **Scripture interprets scripture.** We compare what we read to the established truths in the whole bible. **Oh, let us be like the believers of Berea.** *in that we have received the word with all readiness, and searched the Scriptures daily to find out whether these things were so.* Scripture is our guide always-

Until the day dawns. Which speaks of Christs second coming, and the daystar arise in our hearts. The day star is a very common Old Testament phrase for the Messiah. The Messiah rising in our hearts, growing in our hearts us becoming transformed into His image, becoming more and more like Him we see this in *Romans 8:29 For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren.* Well, until that great day you need the lamp of the word and you need to pay close attention to it and you must do so sincerely, or you'll go off the track. It delivers you from any kind of sin. You read the word of God.

But this day is still to come, and for us to be like Him, we must take heed of the scripture. If we do, we will do well. What a joy it will be to hear the Lord say on that great Judgement Day **‘Well done you good and faithful servant.’** If we want to hear those words ‘well done.’ *We must be sure that we have, done well to heed the scripture.*

I close with this - Let us recognise this is our final authority in our lives. Let us heed Scripture, follow scripture, be a doer of His holy Word. Thats what I’m going to do till my dying day.