

## HEAVEN'S GIFT TO MAN

### (2 Peter 1:19-21)

#### I. Our possession.

- a. Peter tells us that we have a more sure word of prophecy.
- b. The phrase “we have” literally means we possess.
- c. What do we possess?
  - i. We possess a word that has been made more sure by the things that Peter had seen and about which he was reminding his audience.
  - ii. 2 Peter 1:13-18.
- d. Peter, James, and John were granted a tremendous privilege: that of seeing the Lord transfigured.
  - i. Peter was reminding his audience of the facts that he had taught them or they had learned in the past.
  - ii. The fact was that He saw the Lord given glory and honor by the Father when the Father verbally attested to the fact that Jesus was His Son in whom He was well pleased.
- e. The opportunity given those men made even more sure, more firmly proved, the Old Testament prophecies of the Christ.
- f. These things are revealed to us in God’s word, the Bible.
- g. You and I possess this.
  - i. We have it today in the form of the Bibles we all possess.
  - ii. Any translation that is faithful to texts, manuscripts, and other copies of God’s word that have been found is God’s word and can be trusted.

#### II. Our payment.

- a. Peter says that we would do well to give heed to this word that has been made more sure.
- b. What he is saying is that we need to pay attention to this word.
  - i. It literally means to be attentive to something.
  - ii. The something in this case is the word that has been made more sure, or more trustworthy, by the things seen by the men who wrote the word.
- c. This is a payment many of us are not making today.
  - i. In a sense, it’s not a payment.
  - ii. It’s an investment.
  - iii. Every time we read this great, sure, word, you and I are gaining strength.
  - iv. It is the only source of faith (Romans 10:17).
- d. Do a search of “how much time do Americans spend reading the Bible”.
  - i. One headline read, “only 3% of teens read Bible daily”.
  - ii. Another: “Americans love the Bible but don’t read it much”.
  - iii. Another: “Less than 20% of churchgoers read their Bible daily”.

- e. Better than a google search is just look around at the lives of those who profess to be Christians.
  - i. If we do read it, many of us are ignoring what we are reading.
  - ii. We say we believe in and are directed by a book that says we are to be different from the world, but we, in general, are very much like the world.
  - iii. Results and actions don't lie.
- f. Peter told his audience to give heed, pay attention to God's word, and we need to be making that payment today.

### III. The purpose.

- a. Some don't read because they don't see the purpose in it.
- b. Peter tells us the purpose at the end of verse 19 (2 Peter 1:19).
- c. The purpose is shine light on a dark life.
  - i. The phrase dark place is from a Greek word that is only used in this verse in the New Testament.
  - ii. It literally means, "squalid, dirty".
  - iii. Br. Woods said it refers to a squalid, filthy, and dark dungeon.
- d. The life of a non-Christian is one without the light of the gospel shining in it so sin has made it a dark, dank, filthy place.
- e. The gospel message, found in this word that has been made more sure, or more stable, will clean that dark, dank, filthy place up when it is allowed to shine in it.
- f. It allows the daystar, which is a reference to Jesus, to arise in our hearts.
  - i. This great heaven-sent present allows us to meet the One whom Peter met.
  - ii. Not in the same visible way, but we are allowed to get to know Him intimately through His revealed message.
- g. This word sheds light on the darkness of the world.
  - i. Wonder from whom Peter got that idea?
  - ii. You think he heard this from Jesus (John 8:12; 12:46).
  - iii. It sheds light on the dark spaces of our hearts if we will allow it do so.
- h. The whole purpose of God's word is to allow Christ into our hearts in order to change them through taking in this great present from heaven.

### IV. The process.

- a. We've all heard the phrase "first things first".
- b. This is how Peter starts out describing how God's word was imparted to man.
  - i. Knowing this first could also be translated "this first understanding".
  - ii. Before anything else could be said about inspiration or revelation, God revealing His word to inspired men, it has to be known that what was given by God and did not come from the mind of the inspired man.
  - iii. Private means personal and is translated own in numerous other passages such as James 1:14 – drawn away of his own lust and enticed.

