

2 Peter 1:16-21

Grounded in Reality

1. Faith Founded on Historical Fact 16-18

A. Not Myths

B. The Emphasis on Witnesses

The overall emphasis-

“That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we looked upon and have touched with our hands, concerning the word of life— the life was made manifest, and we have seen it, and testify to it and proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and was made manifest to us— that which we have seen and heard we proclaim also to you, so that you too may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ.” -1 John 1:1-3 ESV

- The Gospels

“And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth. (John bore witness about him, and cried out, “This was he of whom I said, ‘He who comes after me ranks before me, because he was before me.’)” -John 1:14-15 ESV

- The Record of Peter in Acts

“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.” -Acts 1:8 ESV

Peter’s Sermon on Pentecost

“This Jesus God raised up, and of that we all are witnesses.”
Acts 2:32 ESV

Peter’s Message after a healing at Solomon’s Porch

“And when Peter saw it he addressed the people: “Men of Israel, why do you wonder at this, or why do you stare at us, as though by our own power or piety we have made him walk? The God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, the God of our fathers, glorified his servant Jesus, whom you delivered over and denied in the presence of Pilate, when he had decided to release him. But you denied the Holy and Righteous One, and asked for a murderer to be granted to you, and you killed the Author of life, whom God raised from the dead. To this we are witnesses.” -Acts 3:12-15 ESV

Peter’s Defense

“And when they had brought them, they set them before the council. And the high priest questioned them, saying, “We strictly charged you not to teach in this name, yet here you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching, and you intend to bring this man’s blood upon us.” But Peter and the apostles answered, “We must obey God rather than men. The God of our fathers raised Jesus, whom you killed by hanging him on a tree. God exalted him at his right hand as Leader and Savior, to give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins. And we are witnesses to these things, and so is the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey him.”” -Acts 5:27-32 ESV

- The Witnesses of Jesus after the Resurrection

“For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, and that he appeared to **Cephas**, then to the twelve. Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep. Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me. For I am the least of the apostles, unworthy to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me was not in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them, though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me. Whether then it was I or they, so we preach and so you believed.”
1 Corinthians 15:3-11 ESV

C. Confirmation from the Father

Glory Revealed

“But rejoice insofar as you share Christ’s sufferings, that you may also rejoice and be glad when his glory is revealed.” -1 Peter 4:13 ESV

“So I exhort the elders among you, as a fellow elder and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, as well as a partaker in the glory that is going to be revealed:” -1 Peter 5:1 ESV

He is the King!

“I will tell of the decree: The Lord said to me, “You are my Son; today I have begotten you.” -Psalm 2:7 ESV

“Behold my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen, in whom my soul delights; I have put my Spirit upon him; he will bring forth justice to the nations.” -Isaiah 42:1 ESV

Peter, James, and John with Jesus on the Mount of Transfiguration
“He was still speaking when, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them, and a voice from the cloud said, “This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him.” When the disciples heard this, they fell on their faces and were terrified.” -Matthew 17:5-6 ESV

2. The Source of Authority 19

- A. The Prophetic Word
- B. The Light of the Word

“Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.”

Psalms 119:105 ESV

- C. The Morning Star

“I see him, but not now; I behold him, but not near: a star shall come out of Jacob, and a scepter shall rise out of Israel; it shall crush the forehead of Moab and break down all the sons of Sheth.”

Numbers 24:17 ESV

““I, Jesus, have sent my angel to testify to you about these things for the churches. I am the root and the descendant of David, the bright morning star.”” -Revelation 22:16 ESV

3. The Source of Scripture 20, 21

- A. Eliminating Individual Interpretations 20
- B. Back to the Source 21

“All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.”

2 Timothy 3:16-17 ESV

Reflection: How is the historical and authoritative background important to your faith today?

Follow UP in the Word through the Week...

Monday: 1 John 1:1-3. What is John stating in these verses? How important does he make it that they saw and touched Jesus?

Tuesday: Acts 3:12-15. Who are the witnesses that Peter refers to? What did they witness? What is the importance of what they witnessed?

Wednesday: Acts 5:27-32. Who are the witnesses that Peter is referring to in these verses? What did they witness and why is it important? How did that fuel these early missionaries and evangelists?

Thursday: 1 Corinthians 15:3-11. What is the subject that Paul is addressing in this chapter? Who are the witnesses and what is the importance to this subject matter?

Friday: Psalm 119:105. If you have not memorized this verse, take some time to go over it today. How important is the Word in your life and how important does this verse say that the Word is?

Saturday: 2 Timothy 3:16-17. What is the source of the Scripture? What is the function that the Scriptures should serve in our lives?