

Second Peter: Courageous Living in Chaotic Days
The Certainty and Reliability of Scripture
2 Peter 1:19-21

I've titled today's message, "The Certainty and Reliability of Scripture"

Let me begin with a quote I have in the front of my Bible...

The Bible is the Word of God; supernatural in origin, eternal in duration, inexpressible in valor, infinite in scope, regenerative in power, infallible in authority, universal in interest, personal in application, and inspired in totality. Therefore, I will; read it through, write it down, pray it in, work it out, and pass it on!
— Smith Wigglesworth

2 Peter 1:19–21 (ESV) — And we have the prophetic word more fully confirmed, to which you will do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts, knowing this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture comes from someone's own interpretation. For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.

Courageous Living in Chaotic Days

A Journey through Second Peter

The Walk	The Word	The War	The Wait
2 Peter 1:3-11	2 Peter 1:12-21	2 Peter 2:1-22	2 Peter 3:1-16

1. INSPIRATION: The AUTHORITY of Scripture

2 Peter 1:21 (ESV) — For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.

In this passage Peter makes it VERY clear that the Scripture were NOT spoken words from men, but from God...

They were INSPIRED by God, not men!

Therefore they carry the Authority of God!

➤ ***The AUTHORITY of Scripture means that ALL the words in Scripture are GOD'S words in such a way that to DISBELIEVE or DISOBEY any word of Scripture is to DISBELIEVE or DISOBEY God.***

In this passage, Peter is not only speaking specifically of the prophecies referring to Jesus, but of all Scripture...

John 5:39 (ESV) — You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is they that bear witness about me

The Bible you hold in your hands is the Inspired Word of God!

2 Timothy 3:16a (ESV) — All Scripture is breathed out by God ...

The word used in the New Testament for Scripture is the Hebrew word...

γραφή (graphe)

This word is used 51 times in the New Testament and always refers to the Old Testament Scriptures...

➤ ***We know the Bible to be the inspired Words of God because it CLAIMS to be God's Word...***

The earliest collection of written words of God was the Ten Commandments...

Exodus 31:18 (ESV) — And he gave to Moses, when he had finished speaking with him on Mount Sinai, the two tablets of the testimony, tablets of stone, written with the finger of God.

Deuteronomy 31:24–26 (ESV) — 24 When Moses had finished writing the words of this law in a book to the very end, 25 Moses commanded the Levites who carried the ark of the covenant of the LORD, 26 “Take this Book of the Law

and put it by the side of the ark of the covenant of the LORD your God, that it may be there for a witness against you.

Joshua 24:26a (ESV) — And Joshua wrote these words in the Book of the Law of God...

The prophets continued writing additional words from God...

When being tempted by the devil, Jesus quotes Deut...

Matthew 4:4 (ESV) — But he answered, “It is written, “ ‘Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.’ ”

We could go on and on throughout the Bible...

- ***The number of times OT says, “Thus says the Lord...”***
- ***The number of times it says “The Holy Spirit says...”***

➤ ***We know the Bible to be the inspired Words of God because the Holy Spirit CONFIRMS it to be God's Word...***

Hebrews 4:12 (ESV) — For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart.

1 Corinthians 2:14 (ESV) — The natural person does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are folly to him, and he is not able to understand them because they are spiritually discerned.

John 10:27 (ESV) — My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me.

I want to read a quote out of the Westminster Confession of Faith written between 1643-46...

We may be moved and induced by the testimony of the Church to an high and reverent esteem of the Holy Scripture. And the heavenliness of the matter, the efficacy of the doctrine, the majesty of the style, the consent of all the parts, the scope of the whole (which is, to give all glory to God), the full discovery it makes of the only way of man's salvation, the many other incomparable excellencies, and the entire perfection thereof, are arguments whereby it doth abundantly evidence itself to be the Word of God: yet notwithstanding, our full persuasion and assurance of the infallible truth and divine authority thereof, is from the inward work of the Holy Spirit bearing witness by and with the Word in our hearts.

- ***We know the Bible to be the inspired Words of God because Jesus CONFESSES it to be God's Word...***

John 17:17 (ESV) — Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth.

Jesus did not claim the Bible to be true, but to be TRUTH!

If you simply claim the Bible to be true then it becomes true along with everything else that claims to be true...

However, if the Bible is TRUTH then anything that claims to be true must be measured against the TRUTH of Scriptures

- ***Every STATEMENT of the Bible calls for instant, unqualified and unrestricted ACCEPTANCE.***
- ***Every DOCTRINE of the Bible is the teaching of God and therefore requires full AGREEMENT.***
- ***Every PROMISE of the Bible calls for unshakable trust in its FULFILLMENT.***
- ***Every COMMAND of the Bible is the directive of God himself and therefore demands willing OBSERVANCE.***

1. INSPIRATION: The AUTHORITY of Scripture

2. REVELATION: The SUFFICIENCY of Scripture

2 Peter 1:20 (ESV) — knowing this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture comes from someone's own interpretation.

The prophecies did not originate with the prophets themselves...

The prophets were not giving INTERPRETATION, but REVELATION...

So, what is the difference between these?

→ Interpretation means, “unloosing” something

This is left to the person’s own “unloosing” approach

→ Revelation means, “unveiling” something

Listen to what Paul said to Timothy regarding the sufficiency of Scripture...

2 Timothy 3:14–15 (ESV) — 14 But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it 15 and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.

Paul then went on to clarify Scripture’s sufficiency even further...

2 Timothy 3:16–17 (ESV) — 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.

➤ ***The SUFFICIENCY of Scripture means that Scripture contains all the words of God necessary for TRUSTING and OBEYING Him perfectly.***

Scripture does not reveal everything to us regarding God, but it does reveal everything NECESSARY for us...

Deuteronomy 29:29 (ESV) — The secret things belong to the LORD our God, but the things that are revealed belong to us and to our children forever, that we may do all the words of this law.

The Scriptures teach us everything necessary for salvation and Christian living...

James 1:18 (ESV) — Of his own will he brought us forth by the word of truth, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures.

1 Peter 1:23 (ESV) — Since you have been born again, not of perishable seed but of imperishable, through the living and abiding word of God

Roman Catholics do not believe in the Sufficiency of Scripture...

They believe in Scripture PLUS official teachings of the Church throughout history...

Non-evangelicals do not believe in the Sufficiency of Scripture...

They believe in Scripture PLUS things culturally and historically relevant...

But we believe in Sola Scriptura! Scripture Alone!

Luther stated...

"The true rule is this: God's Word shall establish articles of faith, and no one else, not even an angel can do so."

— Martin Luther

- **It encourages us to DISCOVER what the Lord would have us THINK and DO.**
- **It reminds us that we are to add NOTHING to Scripture and that we are to consider no other WRITINGS of EQUAL value to Scripture.**

Therefore X out Mormonism...

- **It tells us that God does not require us to BELIEVE anything about himself or his redemptive work that is NOT found in Scripture.**

Colossians 2:8 (ESV) — See to it that no one takes you captive by philosophy and empty deceit, according to

human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the world, and not according to Christ.

- **It shows us that no modern REVELATIONS from God are to be placed on a level EQUAL to Scripture in authority.**

Not prophetic revelation is to rise above Scripture!!!

This is NOT a denial of prophecies, dreams, and visions, but rather a protection!

1 Thessalonians 5:20–21 (ESV) — Do not despise prophecies, but test everything; hold fast what is good.

- **It reminds us that nothing is SIN that is not FORBIDDEN by Scripture either explicitly or by implication.**

The Scripture does not forbid wine or other alcoholic drinks, but DOES FORBID DRUNKENNESS!

However, the Scripture DOES FORBID, both explicitly and implicitly SAME SEX MARRIAGE!

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1. _____: The _____ of Scripture

- The _____ of Scripture means that _____ the words in Scripture are _____ words in such a way that to _____ or _____ any word of Scripture is to _____ or _____ God.
- We know the Bible to be the inspired Words of God because it _____ to be God's Word...
- We know the Bible to be the inspired Words of God because the Holy Spirit _____ it to be God's Word...
- We know the Bible to be the inspired Words of God because Jesus _____ it to be God's Word...
- Every _____ of the Bible calls for instant, unqualified and unrestricted _____.
- Every _____ of the Bible is the teaching of God and therefore requires full _____.
- Every _____ of the Bible calls for unshakable trust in its _____.
- Every _____ of the Bible is the directive of God himself and therefore demands willing _____.

2. _____: The _____ of Scripture

- The _____ of Scripture means that Scripture contains all the words of God necessary for _____ and _____ Him perfectly.
- It encourages us to _____ what the Lord would have us _____ and _____.
- It reminds us that we are to add _____ to Scripture and that we are to consider no other _____ of _____ value to Scripture.
- It tells us that God does not require us to _____ anything about himself or his redemptive work that is _____ found in Scripture.
- It shows us that no modern _____ from God are to be placed on a level _____ to Scripture in authority.
- It reminds us that nothing is _____ that is not _____ by Scripture either explicitly or by implication.