

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

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.

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!

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

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.

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.

3. ILLUMINATION: The NECESSITY of Scripture

2 Peter 1:19 (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

While this is the entire verse, for this part we are going to focus on the second half...

2 Peter 1:19b (ESV) — ... 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

What do I mean when I refer to the necessity of Scripture?

- **The NECESSITY of Scripture means that the words in Scripture are ESSENTIAL for the SPECIAL revelation of God's GRACE through Christ, but not for the GENERAL revelation of God.**

→ General Revelation

- **KNOWING that God EXISTS**

Psalm 19:1 (ESV) — The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky above proclaims his handiwork.

Acts 14:16–17 (ESV) — In past generations he allowed all the nations to walk in their own ways. Yet he did not leave himself without witness, for he did good by giving you

rains from heaven and fruitful seasons, satisfying your hearts with food and gladness."

Psalm 14:1 (ESV) — The fool says in his heart, "There is no God." They are corrupt, they do abominable deeds; there is none who does good.

➤ **ATTRIBUTES of God's CHARACTER**

Romans 1:19–21 (ESV) — For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them. For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse. For although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened.

Ecclesiastes 3:11 (ESV) — He has made everything beautiful in its time. Also, he has put eternity into man's heart, yet so that he cannot find out what God has done from the beginning to the end.

➤ **AWARENESS of God's MORAL LAW**

Romans 1:32 (ESV) — Though they know God's righteous decree that those who practice such things deserve to die, they not only do them but give approval to those who practice them.

Romans 2:14–15 (ESV) — For when Gentiles, who do not have the law, by nature do what the law requires, they are a

law to themselves, even though they do not have the law. They show that the work of the law is written on their hearts, while their conscience also bears witness, and their conflicting thoughts accuse or even excuse them

It is because of this GENERAL revelation about God that Christians can find common ground with non-Christians...

This is why some non-Christians declare themselves to be Christians because they mistake general revelation for special revelation...

Does this sound familiar?

“We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.”

→ *Special Revelation*

John 1:5 (ESV) — The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

It takes this SPECIAL revelation for people to come to know God!

2 Corinthians 4:3–4 (ESV) — And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.

So what is the SPECIAL revelation that is found through Scripture?

➤ *The KNOWLEDGE of the GOSPEL*

Romans 10:13–17 (ESV) — For “everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.” How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching? And how are they to preach unless they are sent? As it is written, “How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!” But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Isaiah says, “Lord, who has believed what he has heard from us?” So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.

Romans 10:13–17 (ESV) — For “everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be SAVED.” How then will they CALL on him in whom they have not BELIEVED? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never HEARD? And how are they to hear without someone PREACHING? And how are they to preach unless they are SENT? As it is written, “How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!” But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Isaiah says, “Lord, who has believed what he has heard from us?” So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.

The “word of Christ” is the Good News of Jesus!

The written Word of God tells us of the coming of God the Word!

➤ *The DEVELOPMENT of the SPIRITUAL life*

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.’ ”

1 Peter 2:2 (ESV) — Like newborn infants, long for the pure spiritual milk, that by it you may grow up into salvation

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 UNDERSTANDING of God’s WILL**

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.

1 John 5:3 (ESV) — For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome.

Joshua 1:8 (ESV) — This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success.

Romans 12:2 (ESV) — Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

4. CONFIRMATION: The CLARITY of Scripture

2 Peter 1:19a (ESV) — And we have the prophetic word more fully confirmed, to which you will do well to pay attention ...

- **The CLARITY of Scripture means that its teachings are UNDERSTOOD by ALL who will SEEK God’s GUIDANCE and are willing to FOLLOW its TRUTHS.**

The Scripture is clarified...

- **Through the SAVIOR**

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

After the death of Jesus, His disciples didn’t understand the Scriptures regarding the Cross and His Resurrection...

Luke 24:44–47 (ESV) — Then he said to them, “These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you, that everything written about me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled.” Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures, and said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, and that repentance for the forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem.

The two on the road to Emmaus...

Luke 24:27 (ESV) — And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning himself.

➤ *By the SPIRIT*

John 16:13 (ESV) — When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come.

Revelation 2:7a (ESV) — He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.

2 Peter 3:15–16 (ESV) — And count the patience of our Lord as salvation, just as our beloved brother Paul also wrote to you according to the wisdom given him, as he does in all his letters when he speaks in them of these matters. There are some things in them that are hard to understand, which the ignorant and unstable twist to their own destruction, as they do the other Scriptures.

Jesus said basically the same thing to the religious leaders of Israel...

Matthew 22:29 (ESV) — But Jesus answered them, “You are wrong, because you know neither the Scriptures nor the power of God.

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.

➤ *For the SIMPLE*

Deuteronomy 6:6–7 (ESV) — And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise.

Psalms 19:7 (ESV) — The law of the LORD is perfect, reviving the soul; the testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple;

➤ *With help from the STUDIED*

Ephesians 4:11–14 (ESV) — And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes.

James 3:1 (ESV) — Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers, for you know that we who teach will be judged with greater strictness.

Again, those two on the road to Emmaus...

After Jesus departed listen to what they said was the effect of hearing the Scripture opened up to them...

Luke 24:32 (ESV) — They said to each other, “Did not our hearts burn within us while he talked to us on the road, while he opened to us the Scriptures?”

Even the great preacher Apollos needed someone to come along and explain to him the way of God more accurately...

Acts 18:24–26 (ESV) — Now a Jew named Apollos, a native of Alexandria, came to Ephesus. He was an eloquent man, competent in the Scriptures. He had been instructed in the way of the Lord. And being fervent in spirit, he spoke and taught accurately the things concerning Jesus, though he knew only the baptism of John. He began to speak boldly in the synagogue, but when Priscilla and Aquila heard him, they took him aside and explained to him the way of God more accurately.

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1. Inspiration: The Authority of Scripture

2. Revelation: The Sufficiency of Scripture

3. _____: The _____ of Scripture

- The _____ of Scripture means that the words in Scripture are _____ for the _____ revelation of God's _____ through Christ, but not for the _____ revelation of God.

General

- _____ that God _____
- _____ of God's _____
- _____ of God's _____

Special

- The _____ of the _____
- The _____ of the _____ life
- The _____ of God's _____

4. _____: The _____ of Scripture

- The _____ of Scripture means that its teachings are _____ by _____ who will _____ God's _____ and are willing to _____ its _____.
- Through the _____
- By the _____
- For the _____
- With help from the _____