

The Sufficiency and Faithfulness of The Bible

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2 Peter 1:19-21
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Second Peter chapter one will be our passage and we're going to be continuing in our study of this magnificent section of Peter's letter that I would call the apology. Now we'll explain a little bit more of what that means and break that down. But I want to take a moment at this time to look back at some of the things that we have already studied to gain some fuller perspective and context for where we are headed.

So just so that we're all on the same page and clear, we want to remember that the Apostle Peter is the author of this letter and he is writing this letter from prison. In fact, he is writing this letter from his death row cell. He is about to be put to death. This will be his final correspondence to his churches and in fact his last chance to leave a legacy of ministry for the church at large.

So in this letter, Peter addresses his writing to all Christians knowing that this information, these words of faithfulness and courage and hope and wisdom and truth would serve not just his local congregations, but all Christians for all time. So he begins by expressing God's favor on God's people. He reminds us of the sufficiency of God's words for his people to live lives of godliness in this world. He gives confidence in reminding all believers of the precious and very great promises found for those who belong to Jesus, including promises of escaping the corruption of this world and attaining to eternal life. He goes on to encourage Godly living by exhorting growth in faith supplements of virtue and knowledge, self-control, steadfastness, godliness, brotherly affection and selfless love. And then he goes on to say that he would spend his final breaths, his last words, always reminding us of these things, spurring us on to further holiness and righteous living. Now why would he do that? He says so that we, his audience, his intended readers, all believers could be richly rewarded by God with incomparable blessings and benefits that are granted to God's people in the kingdom of Christ.

Last time we saw Peter begin to make a defense or an apology for the reasons behind asking his audience, all of us, to spend our lives to be so faithful to God. He expressed that this gospel was not a figment of his own imagination. It was given to him by Jesus. It wasn't some manmade myth, it wasn't some enticing wonder or even a personal testimony meant to anchor us to himself.

No, Peter's life was a life spent in ministry having witnessed Christ's personal ministry and the majestic glory of God personified in Jesus on the mountain of transfiguration. Peter and James and John were all present with God the Father when he acknowledged in Christ divine glory, blessing and honor. They got a firsthand preview of the kingdom glory that Jesus predicted that some would live to see the son of man coming in, in Matthew 16. And we learned that the greatest preview of any future kingdom of Christ would be to feature the greatest feature of that

kingdom in the preview, which is the glory of Christ, the greatest feature. But now as we approach our text for today, second Peter one 19 to 21, Peter does something interesting.

As we noted last time, Peter could have built his entire ministry credibility off of his personal eyewitness account of the glory of Christ. He could have bragged, he could have stolen prestige, he could have sold tickets. But the text here takes a dramatically different turn. At the height of Peter's description of the glory of Christ, right when we think we're going to get pulled into why we should trust Peter and his personal experience, he deflects.

You see, Peter knows his own flesh. Peter also knows you, dear Christian, and your weak flesh and mind. He knows the true remedy for cementing our hearts and minds in trusting God. And it is not in the telling of stories, it's not in the sharing even of personal divine experience. It's not in the mesmerizing details of what his eyes most certainly beheld on that holy mountain, but rather his answer turns to something different. And we'll learn about that today in our text. And this is one of the most profound texts on the nature and power of scripture found anywhere in the Bible.

This text should destroy your confidence in this world. This text should destroy your confidence in men and in personal experience. After all, this text is pitted up against Peter's own experience, which would've been the greatest experience in human history. And this text should anchor your soul to God's word. And so as we get into our text for today, our imminently practical text, continuing on from Peter's testimony of his experience of the manifest glory of Christ on that mountain of transfiguration. From these five verses we will see five, or from these verses we will see five truths about God's word that are meant to give us assurance of the sufficiency and faithfulness of God's revelation for us in His word, the Bible.

So Peter will show us five truths about the sufficiency and faithfulness of the Bible meant to anchor your soul to God's word. So with that purpose, we're going to read the text together. And at Redeemer Bible Church when we read, we stand out of reverence for God's word. So if you would please join us standing and we're going to read together 2 Peter 1:16 to 21. And our verses for today will be 19 to 21. And it says this, "For we did not follow cleverly devised myths when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. But we were eyewitnesses." Pardon me, "Of his majesty. For when he received honor and glory from God the father and the voice was born to him by the majestic glory, this is my beloved son with whom I am well pleased. We ourselves heard this very voice born from heaven for we were with him on the holy mountain. And we have the prophetic word more fully confirmed to which you do well to pay attention as to the 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." That is God's word. You may be seated.

As you are, please pray with me for our time. Father, we need your wisdom. James chapter one says, If any of us lacks wisdom, we can come to you and ask and you will freely give it without reproach. And that is what we ask. We need your insights to see what you would have us see from this text. We thank you for the faithful testimony of Peter. We thank you for the truth that

we are about to consume. And we echo the words of Jesus in John 17. Father, sanctify us in your truth for your word is truth. Pray this in Christ's name. Amen.

So as we dive right into our outline, you'll see a note sheet in front of you. And there's a lot of words on there, don't let that bother you. We will get through them on time, I promise. But we're going to start right into truth **number one** in your outline of these five truths. And that is that we **possess the best and fullest revelation from God**. Verse 19. So if you read with me again, the first line of verse 19, it says this, "And we have the prophetic word more fully confirmed." I want to unpack this a little bit because first of all, Peter sets us up by showing us a comparison. And you might not see that here but the word *and* could also be translated as *but* or *and yet*. And I don't want us to miss this because otherwise we could think Peter had this experience and so he's got a prophetic word for you. That's not what's going on. He's saying, "I had this great experience. I was with Christ on the mountain and yet we have the prophetic word." I think that's the idea here. Peter is making a knee-jerk transition from telling us the greatest experience of his life. He is setting up his readers to follow him based on his credentials. Right? But what does he do? He pivots and he pivots hard like a speedboat turning on a sharp angle. We get launched out of the boat if we're not careful. We have to understand what's going on here. And so Peter kind of lassos us back in with this transition. But he says, "And yet..." And so we ask the question, "And yet what? What could anchor us here?" And he says, "And yet we have." And this is a significant statement even in this little word because it means that we always constantly forever possess. We have been given, we have been granted. What have we been granted, Peter? And yet we have the prophetic word more fully confirmed. Peter is telling us qualities of this prophetic word that we want to note to help us see why we should have confidence in it.

And firstly in your outline it says this, "It was given by divine prophecy." Given by divine prophecy. And in our day and age we must clarify what prophecy actually means. The idea of prophecy has been watered down and made something that the Bible never intended it to mean. You see, all biblical prophecy is God-given revelation and the Holy Spirit does not make mistakes. He doesn't stutter, nor does he allow the agents of his prophecy to make mistakes. As we'll see later, divine prophecy then is perfect, it is trustworthy and it is authoritative in all respects. And it is sourced purely from the perfect mind and mouth of God codified in his word. That leads us to the second principle here, "The prophetic word is complete in its expression." It is complete perfect in its expression. Do you remember what Peter said in second Peter one, three, his divine power has granted to us some things, no, all things pertaining to life and godliness. And so we understand that this means that the revelation that we have in God's word is complete, perfect-full and everything that we need to live a life of glory and excellence before him. And this expression more fully confirmed is sort of like a superlative idea that throws on there is no possible way that something is missing from this revelation. Nothing is lacking. So practically speaking then, if that is the case, why would any other prophecy need be given? Would it be necessary for you? Would it add to the Christian's knowledge of God or his

experience? You see, every other time God has spoken, his word has been perfect and it has been necessary for the entire church to know.

Peter wants us to know from his death row cell, from his final letter that we should have absolute confidence in the sufficiency and faithfulness of God's word. And he does that by adding one final element to this first truth. And that is thirdly, it is confirmed in faithfulness. When a word of prophecy is given, it is confirmed by the mouth and testimony of the truthfulness of God's character. And that is good, we can rely on that. But not only do we possess the best and fullest revelation from God that could possibly ever exist, but that truth calls us to action, doesn't it? And that leads us to truth *number two* in your outline. And that is that *we are expected to trust and obey this revelation.*

You see, God doesn't give prophecy or his word in a vacuum. He doesn't give it for no purpose, nor is that purpose simply to inform. No, information and revelation from God calls for action and response. And who is called to respond to this revelation? Well, those who possess it. So the first point of this truth is that it is ours by possession. We possess it. And this verse says so. It says, "We have the prophetic word. That is ours forever. Always and continually God's word for us to which we do well to pay attention." And when we indeed pay attention to this word, we're given God's perfect and holy reasons for following his commands. They are good for us. Therefore our grace, this word calls us to conform ourselves. Romans 12, two says, "Do not be conformed to this world but be transformed by the renewal of your mind." And the renewal of our mind happens through the intake of God's word. And not simply the intake, but the doing, the action of it. Being doers of the word, not simply hearers as James would say. And again, we don't do this to add to our salvation, to accomplish our salvation, to check mark something that we need to do that Jesus didn't quite fulfill. All of our salvation is accomplished, it is done. And so we do these things to showcase the transforming power of the Holy Spirit at work in our lives. That we are a new creation, that we are alive in Christ and we can share that testimony of grace with the world around us, calling them to repentance as well.

Not only do we possess this truth as our own, but it also is, it is given for our guidance. It is for our guidance. "We have the prophetic word," the text says, "More fully confirmed to which you do well to pay attention. How? As a lamp shining in a dark place." Now how many of you have walked around in the darkness and there's light available to you and you're like, "No, I don't need that. I'm just going to keep stumbling around and see what I find." Now the Psalmist calls the word of God for us in this life, the lamp for our feet and the light to our path in Psalm 119, 105. Psalm one goes on to call men blessed, blessed, divinely favored. When we delight in the law, that is in the word of God and we meditate on it day and night and we take it in and we live it.

By the way, never does the Bible direct us to find any godly truth elsewhere. You ever think about that? That doesn't mean we shouldn't read good Christian books. That doesn't mean we shouldn't read good resources that enhance and help us explain the Bible, listen to good sermons, but it never directs us to find Godly truth elsewhere. Anything that we do is derivative of this godly truth. So how often do we go and spend our lives looking for wisdom and truth outside of

God's word? How much time do we invest spending in our guidebook? And we can let that sting a little bit, but the grace of Christ covers that.

And I would encourage you to press on still more in your faithfulness to God's word. Because indicative in Christian behavior is in this verse. We pay close attention. Right? We pay attention to this text. What did Jesus say in John 17:17? Sanctify them in what? Truth, for your word is truth. So true Christians do what with the Bible? We read it, we study it, we learn it, we imbibe it, we preach, we teach, we exhort, we counsel, we train, we correct with, we love and we follow the word of God because that is God's plan for truth and faithfulness in the lives of his people. And that is God's all sufficient source of wisdom for us and it is ours for our guide.

Interestingly enough though, as the text continues, we see another unexpected twist, if we're not careful, we'll get thrown out of that boat. Third reality of this truth is that it's place, underline that word, it's place is temporary. It's temporary. Before you throw anything at me, let me explain. We have the prophetic word more fully confirmed to which you do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place until... That is important. Do you see that? God is actually telling us here that our need for the Bible will come to an end. Now I know that's shocking and without context, that can be confusing.

So we will continue on. And we want to understand what this means, until what? Well, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts. Thanks, Peter. What does that mean? Let's explain it. A lamp shining in a dark place is no longer necessary when the sun comes up, is it? We go outside at night and all the streetlamps are on. What happens when the sun comes up? They all shut off. A lamp shining in a dark place is not necessary when it's no longer dark. But you see Psalm 19, seven is true, "The law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul." But what ultimately revives the soul? Is it the words on the page or is it the truth of the words found in the person who wrote the words? What is the day dawning? What day? What is the morning star rising? What is that? Well, those are good questions. And truth *number three* will help us answer those and that's found in your outline.

Number three, "***We will one day have a better revelation.***" I want to break this down. I'm convinced based on Peter's perspective and his writing that he is referring to an eschatological perspective. That is the end times perspective. That he is referring in fact in this statement to the return of Christ, the day that dawns is what the Bible refers to as the day of the Lord. It is a motif of judgment and restoration that is found all over scripture that we see culminating all of human history in the return of Christ and the reconciliation and restoration of all things. Coincidentally, it is the very topic that Peter will spend chapter three, assuring his readers will actually happen. Why? Because false teachers were lying to them telling them that it wouldn't. And so the day refers to that day when Christ returns. And the morning star rising in your hearts refers to the visible manifest glory of Christ in his triumphant return, foreshadowed to Peter and described to us in the previous verses. And once the glorified Christ returns, once the morning star rises, we will not need to look to his testimony anymore for we will have him, we will have him.

Now I will further illustrate because I don't want to be accused of heresy. My wife and I like to travel and we are going to be in the next week, week and a half or so heading to Kauai. Yes, you can be jealous. It's okay. But before we go anywhere, we always like to do research. We like to travel. We like to look at travel guidebooks and websites and blogs and things. We want to find the places to eat, things we have to see, things we can kind of miss so that we don't waste our time while we're there. But you know what happens is one day we get on a plane and we go and we get off the plane and we don't live like this. Here's our guidebook, right? Oh wow, Hawaii is really fascinating. Right? How foolish would that be to continue to focus on the placeholder when the real thing is right in front of us. And so the Bible is our complete, sufficient, trustworthy, and faithful word until Christ returns, at which point his glory and his presence will be all that we need for life and godliness henceforth, because his word will dwell in us. His word will never pass away, but his presence as the living word will overshadow this, the Bible's guiding light for us and he will be our morning star. His word will never pass away, but it will dwell in us.

The facet of this truth to remember is this, the Bible is revelation necessary to get us to the end of the road. But take heart, until that time, nothing changes. And we will know when that time comes. It will be an unmistakable divine glory filled event of Christ's return. But until that time, the Bible, our possession, our guide is sufficient and faithful for us like a lamp shining in the darkness, pointing us to Jesus because we still live in a world of darkness. But once the morning star rises, he will eradicate the darkness and the lamp will no longer be necessary. We will have the risen Christ. But you do well to pay attention in the meantime, don't you? To both the Bible, everything that it has to say and with our eye fixed on the horizon, with the hope that we have that Christ will return and fulfill all of his promises to us. But our hope and our joy in realizing this next facet should cause us to look to Christ and to his sufficiency.

And that is that the Bible is revelation to be realized at the appearance of Christ. That is realized, made real, made whole, made evident, manifest. Right? It's like what Paul says in first Corinthians 13, 12, "For now we see in a mirror dimly." That is, we kind of get a faint kind of hidden image. But then we will see face to face. We have sort of a written testimony here. Right? But then when you see Christ face to face, it will be full revelation. The word of God is good for us in this age. The presence of Christ will be better, the Bible is clear. Christ will be crystal. We now have the prophetic word. Christ is the forever living word. Scripture is sufficient for this life. Christ is all we need for the next. We know the revealed Christ, but then we will see the realized Christ. And as Paul said to Titus in chapter two, verse 13 of his letter, "Of believers, we are waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and savior Jesus Christ. And at that appearance, we'll no longer need our guidebook." Does that mean it has no meaning? That it is no longer true? No. Everything that we read in our Hawaii guidebooks is still true, but we have the manifest guide in front of us, our Lord, our savior, our God and he will glorify us to live out his statutes perfectly, his heart perfectly. And so our hope, our future hope is in the truthfulness of Christ's glorious return. And in the meantime, we use our guidebook, our

perfect and living and active guidebook to carve out sin and rebellion from our hearts and to follow its trustworthy wisdom.

That leads us to truth number four as we move to verse 20 in the first half of verse 21, as Peter continues his apology or his defense of the why of his letter, and that is this truth ***number four in your outline, "Men did not invent this revelation."*** And this is important to express clearly because without this caveat, the rest of the apology could sort of be thrown into doubt, right? I mean, after all, how trustworthy could Peter's words be if they were just Peter's words? But what we learn here is that Peter bolsters his previous comments by giving us confidence in the veracity or the truthfulness of divine prophecy. Verse 20 says this, knowing this first of all, that no prophecy of scripture comes from someone's own interpretation.

You see, Peter lays out something of primary importance here, and we have to know this. First of all, primary importance, no prophecy of scripture comes from someone's own interpretation. Pretty clear, right? Pretty final. But what Peter says here is crucial. See, he firstly says that prophecy is not defined by man's judgment. No prophecy is defined by man. Prophecy, that is the revealing of divine truth. It is the revealing of future events. It is the revealing of God's perfectly expressed mind. Folks, nothing else qualifies this prophecy. "Hey, I have a word from the Lord for you," not prophecy or divine revelation. No matter what anyone tries to tell you. The Bible, our ultimate guide defines prophecy this way and we are not allowed to define it any other way.

To clarify this line of apology or defense here or argumentation, the second aspect of this truth is that prophecy does not originate in the mind of man, "No prophecy of scripture comes from someone's own interpretation." However, also the first half of verse 21, "For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man." So we do not originate it, we don't make it, nor do we define it. That's not what prophecy is. It's not a privately produced or interpreted thought, rather it is direct truth revealed from God given to the whole church. And outside of his word, we need nothing. We have everything we need for life and godliness. By nature, scripture is perfect. That means complete, whole. It is authoritative and it is necessary for the godliness of all the saints.

So when someone comes and claims to have a prophecy from the Lord or a spirit led impression, what are we to think? Are we to give their thoughts credence on the level of scripture? Are we to believe that God has given them new revelation? Are we to believe that God has given them kind of he got it right, but they might in their sin get it wrong? Are we to believe that God has given them private revelation? Or are we to see prophecy and revelation for what the Bible defines itself to be, divine truth given for the whole church as a whole completed in his revealed word? Or was second Peter one three a mistake? Was it a lie? You see, in no instance has prophecy ever been recorded that it is not intended for all of God's people.

Now as a caveat in the apostolic age, before the word of God was completely codified, while it was still being written, the Bible talks about those who had the gift of prophecy, specifically in First Corinthians and some other places. This was a necessary gift because in every region they needed people who were speaking these words before they were written down and codified. That's what was happening in the apostolic age. Occasionally, there were prophecies that were

given over people and such and such. If they were not codified in the word of God, they are not for us. They are not necessary for us. But biblical prophecy is all of these things. What we see in God's word, it's perfect. It is authoritative, it is necessary for godliness and for all of God's people. And so I just have to note, private revelation from God. And remember, prophecy is by nature revelation from God. Private revelation is an un-biblical idea.

All revelation, all prophecy is for all Christians. And according to second Peter one, three, we already have it all. And so we can rest with confidence that God has not shortchanged us. As John MacArthur would say, "If it's not in the 66 books of the Bible, God didn't say it." I think there's a nuanced way to say that that makes a little bit more sense. If it's not in the 66 books of the Bible, God didn't reveal it to you and you don't need it for your life of godliness. We don't need additional words from the Lord. We have all we need. This idea is further clarified by the famous Puritan John Owens quote, "If private revelations agree with scripture, they are needless and if they disagree with scripture, they are wrong." So why would they be needless? Well, because they've already been revealed. So it's not prophecy if you're already revealing something that's been revealed, stop stealing the glory for yourself and give it to the Lord who wrote it to begin with. Give him glory for the truth and build confidence in the people that you're trying to serve and edify by pointing them to God's word and giving them confidence in it. And why would they be wrong?

Well, because if they disagree with scripture, I'm sorry, God always is right. And so if your words disagree with scripture, you have to change. You have to conform. God intended to give us his complete, perfect, finished, sufficient and faithful revelation in the 66 books of the Bible. If it isn't in there, it is not necessary for your life of godliness. If it isn't in there, God didn't reveal it to you. Deuteronomy 29 says there are secret things that God knows and we don't need to know them yet. If it isn't in there, it actually has no authority for you in this age. But the flip side of that is this, if it is, then it is necessary for your life of godliness, isn't it? It is revealed to you from the Father, isn't it? And it does have authority in your life, doesn't it? Until Jesus returns and fulfills all of his word and all of his promises, makes all things new, perfects us in glory.

Well, Peter wraps up this section in this opening chapter of his letter with the last line of the final verse, verse 21. And it is a theological truth bomb. This is the red meat of the truth right here. And this verse actually defines for us how we understand the nature of the Bible itself. Truth ***number five is the flip side of truth number four, and that is, "The Holy Spirit sovereignly granted this revelation."*** Read verse 21 again with me, "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."

The importance of this cannot be overstated. We understand the doctrine of what is called the transmission of scripture from this verse. You see, God chose to use men to record his word. He used their minds, their unique personalities, their styles, their experiences to express his truth using their words. He didn't cause some sort of spell to fall over them where their eyes roll back in their head and they grab a pen and kind of just start writing. I don't know if you've ever seen

cult documentaries, but sometimes that happens, right? And people just, they call it auto writing. This is the difference between the truth of God and the lies of demons.

God can inspire men and can work in concert with men, demons cannot. They can simply manipulate them like puppets. And so the truth is that men spoke from God. Yes, men spoke. So the first element of this final truth is that true prophecy is men speaking God's words, not their own words, God's words given through their minds and their experiences.

But to clarify, the last half of the verse gives us more understanding of this process, "Men spoke as they were carried along by the spirit." So not only is true prophecy men speaking God's words, but also true prophecy is God ordained and commissioned. And I don't know if you know anything about military commissioning or anything like that, you don't get to do anything until you're commissioned. Unless you are commissioned and called as a prophet, you are not a prophet. Men don't decide to be prophets, they don't invent prophecy. They don't partially or kind of speak for God and sometimes kind of get it right. Men are carried by the spirit in this process.

Let me ask you a question, would the Holy Spirit ever carry a person along in prophecy and then drop them on their head and let the prophecy be errant? No, this is a divinely protected and overseen process. So I have a slide for you. Divine transmission then is this. This is just my definition. If you want to take a picture, you can. "Divine transmission is God using the unique styles, experiences, and personalities of human authors by the power and guidance of the Holy Spirit to perfectly express the exact words, not merely the essence of the idea that God would have them record in their moments of inspiration to preserve for us his words while using their words."

Not complex at all, is that? But this is such a fascinating process of God using faithful men to accomplish his will. And if you remember a few times ago, I want to clarify something. I mentioned over the course of the first century, we're reading in the first chapter here, the final sermon of Peter, right? But Peter preached hundreds of sermons. The apostles in total preached thousands of sermons, probably thousands of written correspondence too. But where are they? They are lost to the annals of history. And so what does that mean for us in our understanding of this? That the apostles were not always and continually speaking with God's inspiration. They're just guys doing ministry most of the time. But when the Holy Spirit set forth to use them and to inspire them, they knew. How did they know? I have no idea. But we can tell from Peter that he knew. He's writing this letter to a timeless audience of all of those who have obtained to a faith of equal value with ours, of equal standing with ours. And then he says, "I intend always to remind you of these things." I think he knows the spirit is preserving this word for the church for all time. But this is what's happening. He knew that God was moving him to write revelation for the whole church and that the spirit would preserve this word for the church.

We know that happens. Psalm 12, six and seven say, "The words of the Lord are like pure words, like silver refined in a furnace on the ground, purified seven times. You oh Lord will keep them." Isaiah 40, verse eight says, "The grass withers and the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever." Matthew 24:35 says, "Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not

pass away." And this should give us confidence and encouragement and hope. And I don't simply just mean, "Well, I hope it all comes to pass." I mean, hope, Biblical hope is the knowledge of a fixed future reality. I'm excited because in a week and a half I'm going to Kauai. So that makes me excited. I know it's happening. I have the tickets.

We know Christ is coming back so we have hope. We place our confidence in that. And we do not lose that hope because it is fixed in the person of Christ who is returning for us as that bright and morning star. And the word of God, his statutes, his promises, his law, they will not be abolished. They will live on forever. But in our glorification, in our resurrection or at the return of Christ, we will live it perfectly. We will know it. And thus, our guidebook will be outshined by our guide.

But until then, we know that the fully preserved, fully sufficient and fully faithful and trustworthy word of God serves as our guide and our better testimony, better than man's wisdom, better than man's experience, better than our own deceitful hearts, better even than Peter's true testimony and personal experience of the glorified Christ on that mountain. Why? Because that was a singular experience. But the truth of these words can serve to sanctify an innumerable gathering of God's elect. And it will give to us consistent, trustworthy, sufficient and faithful truth upon which we can build our godly lives knowing that we have everything that we need for this godly life found right here in the pages that are sitting on your lap.

So what do we go home with? How do we leave here loving Jesus more? How do we bring him more glory with our lives from these truths? And I would argue, I would beg the question, how could we not? Right? I mean, so much richness in here with a solid foundation of divine truth like this. But nonetheless, just a few practical things to take home.

Like last week, ***number one, trust the Bible***. Trust the Bible. God has given it to you as your possession, as your guide for your good. And how often does it sit unopened and yet is a treasure trove of wisdom? Trust it more than your own experience. Trust it more than the wisdom of man. Trust it more than your own heart. Trust it because God is trustworthy. ***Second, obey the Bible***. God didn't give us this perfect revelation to simply put on the shelf and admire like a trophy. He gave it to us to study. He gave it to us to know. He gave it to us to have it indwell in our hearts. He gave it for our instruction and for our stewardship to share with others. Obey the Bible. It is nothing but good blessing for you.

Third, thank God for his trustworthiness. None of this would matter if God's character were untrustworthy, right? The truth here is comforting. God's word is unchanging. We do not serve a trickster who's going to change the rules in the middle of the game and move the finish line and play games with you. He's given you the road for faithfulness to Christ and a roadmap for salvation, and it will never change. So we can thank him for his perfect and gracious character. ***Lastly, place your hope in the return of Christ***. Folks, this is real. This world is just a holding tank. It's the waiting room. And how much effort and time do we put in building this to be our perfect version of the waiting room? When we know that the eternal kingdom is coming, Jesus is coming back for his bride, the toils and trials and struggles and tribulations and the sin, all of it

will come to an end. And when the fullness of God's redemptive work is complete, he will return.

And our hope, our knowledge of that fixed future reality will be realized. We will see face to face. But until then, we know how the story ends and we do not lose heart. We hope in the return of Christ and the reconciliation of all things in the kingdom of Christ and we give him honor and glory and praise for it. As always, I will extend this truth. If this doesn't make sense to you, if you're not a believer, if you have yet to bow your knee to Christ, if you have yet to repent of your sins, to be reconciled to God through Christ, my friend, today is the day. Tomorrow is never promised. At any moment Christ could return, you could die.

This world could come to an end. You sit here today confronted by divine truth. The book of Hebrew says this, "Today if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts as the Israelites did in the wilderness, but hear his truth. Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ. Repent of your sins. Trust in him for your salvation. Confess him with your mouth and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead and he will save you." Do this today and find his grace. Reject him and you will continue under his wrath. Make no mistake, you are under his wrath if you have yet to find salvation in Christ. But there is no need to be under his wrath, receive the gift of grace through Christ and be reconciled to God. We would love to help you understand that more. Come find one of the pastors, come talk to us, talk to the person sitting next to you and leave this place with your sins atoned for and at peace with God. And all of us undeserving wretches who have found the grace of God would echo that refrain and say together. Right? Amen. Right. Amen. Let's pray.

Father, what a tremendous weekend. What an unbelievably blessed study we've had together. I thank you for the truth that you've given through Peter so perfectly, that you've used an imperfect vessel for your righteousness. That you've blessed him by doing that, and that you've given us this testimony and legacy of your perfect word to which we do well to pay attention. But Lord, we understand that this world is dark. We need your wisdom here, and we look forward to the day when the day will dawn and the morning star will rise and we no longer need to dwell in the darkness of this world, but you will establish a perfect kingdom for us. We honor you for that. We ask you, Lord, come quickly. But in the meantime, continue to teach us your ways. Teach us your truth, and bring people into a saving knowledge of Christ. We ask in his name. Amen.