



The Epistles of Peter  
2 Peter 1:16-21 Part 2  
From Sermon 4.19.26

Read 2 Peter 1:16-21

Overview from Sunday's sermon: Before Peter dives into his God-given denunciation of false teachers, he first addresses the main reason they will succeed—the mishandling and ignorance of the Bible. Even in the 1<sup>st</sup> Century, while the New Testament scriptures were being written, critics, doubters, and opponents were questioning the accounts and doctrines presented. But Peter was writing first-hand and under inspiration. He knows the domino effect of compromising the Bible even a little. The Word is faithful.

1. What did Peter mean when he said, “*we have as more sure the prophetic word*”? The Law, Prophets, and Psalms of the Old Testament were true and fully inspired. Yet most of its authors did not fully understand the complex realities of the God/Man Christ, the fulfillment of Scripture, and the birth of the Church. The New Testament readers get the full picture and meaning through Christ and the indwelling Holy Spirit.

2. According to this key text and others like it, how many correct interpretations are there for any piece of Scripture? One

2a. Yet, what is the prevailing mindset in most church/secular circles regarding interpretation? “Well, that’s just how you interpret it”. Everyone has their own understanding. Most are equally valid.

2b. RC Sproul quote: “Everyone has the right, even the obligation to interpret Scripture. No one has the right to interpret it incorrectly.” Discuss.

3. How do the terms modernism and postmodernism fit into this debate?

Modernism: truth is relative. Whatever it means to you is your truth, regardless of author’s purpose.

Postmodernism: there is no truth in anything.

[Note: while there is but one correct interpretation of any Scripture, we do acknowledge there may be varying applications of that same passage. Explain the difference = Scripture may not be addressed to me and require my action. It may just tell me about Christ, the nature of God, the redemptive plan. Examples]

4. Read the following verses and note Jesus’ view of Scripture in each:

*Matthew 5:17-18*: Every scripture, word, punctuation mark matters. [JW’s and John 1 “a god”]

*John 5:39*: Every Scripture, in some way, points to Christ

*Luke 24:44*: Nothing that is written will fail to come to pass. The Scripture is faithful.

5. Now read *Matthew 22:23-33*. Jesus’ teaching is obviously clarifying the subject of Resurrection. But what is the significant and powerful tool He used to correct them? The tense of the verb “am/to be”.

5a. What defect was exposed in the Sadducees? “that’s just your interpretation of (clear) Scriptures”

6. What is the indictment of the modern western church regarding Scripture? That it’s *Insufficient*. We must add to it programs, entertainment, while withholding doctrines like the wrath of God, sin, & hell. Consequence: a shallow, emotion-driven church and ministry. Doctrine is abandoned and even viewed as harmful.