2 PETER

SALUTATION — 1:1-2

I. SAFEGUARDS AGAINST APOSTASY — 1:1-21

A. THE MATURITY OF BELIEVERS — 1:1-11

1 - God's Normal Man — HIS POSITION — 1:1-4

a - Described as to ENDOWMENTS — 1:1-4

1 - Faith with us
2 - Righteousness of God
3 - Grace + peace
4 - Thru Knowledge of God (General)
5 - Life + godliness
6 - Knowledge of Him (Specific)
7 - Promises related to second coming
8 - Partakers of the divine nature

b - Described as to need for PRACTICAL DEVELOPMENT

c - Described as to CHARACTER — 1:5-7

1 - Toward SELF
- a - Faith
- b - Virtue
- c - Knowledge (in Scr)
- d - Temperance
- e - Patience

2 - Toward GOD
- a - Godliness (= True Piety)

3 - Toward BRETHREN
- a - Brotherly Kindness (= affection)

4 - Toward ALL
- a - Charity (= Love; Agape)

d - Described as to USEFULNESS — 1:8
1 - Godly characteristics existing IN him
2 - Godly characteristics overflowing FROM him
a - Not Barren (= idle)
b - Not Unfruitful

2 - God's ABNORMAL MAN (carnal) — HIS PRACTICE 1:9-11

a Lacks that are SERIOUS! (1:9)
① "But"
② "BLIND" = Sight is clouded; Smoke in eyes
③ "CANNOT SEE AFAR OFF" = Occupied w/ earthly things
④ "HATH FORGOTTEN THAT HE WAS PURGED FROM HIS OLD SINS" — Preoccupied with earth-life

b Lacks that are FAR-REACHING!
① Idleness (1:8)
② Unfruitful (1:8)
③ Impaired vision (1:9)
④ Divisions arise (1 Cor. 3:1-9)
⑤ Dull of hearing (Heb. 5:11)
⑥ Not teaching (Heb. 5:12)
⑦ Unskilled in the Word (Heb. 5:13)

c Lacks That CAN BE CURED!
① Divine Physician Consulted — Rev. 3:17-19
② Proper Diet followed — Heb. 5:14; 1 Cor. 3:2
③ Proper Exercise Experienced (Heb. 5:14)
④ Proper Diligence Given (2 Pet. 1:10-11)

B.- THE TESTIMONY OF THE APOSTLE (1:12-18)

1- Peter's Present Truth (1:12-14)

[a] What "Present Truth" Is Not:
1. No hint of Apostolic Succession
2. No hint of Apostolic Success

[b] What "Present Truth" Is!
1. Remembrances about Jesus Christ
2. Revelations about Truth
3. Enscripturized record which is permanently available.

[c] Peter's Testimony
1. Rejects negligence in the ministry
2. Practices diligence
3. Desires establishment
4. Exercises his ministry
5. Anticipates his death

2- Peter's Permanent Truth (1:15-18)

Witness Of The Apostle in N.T.

[a] Peter's Apostolic Reminder (1:15)

Preparation
1. These things
2. These ways — Present godly life
   — Later written record

[b] Peter's Apostolic Rebuff (1:16)

Negation
1. Not Fables/Myths
2. But Historical reality
3. Personal testimony

[c] Peter's Apostolic Report (1:17-18)

Affirmation
1. What was seen
2. What was heard
3. What was not recorded here

3- Peter's Prophetic Truth (1:19-21)
Witness of the Prophets From O.T.

[a] What the Prophetic Word Is: (1:19)
① It is prophecy
② It is in words
③ It is sure
④ It is a shining light
⑤ It is a herald of our Coming Savior

[b] What The Prophetic Word Is Not: (1:20-21)
① It is not unknowable
② It is not of private interpretation
③ It is not by the will of man

[c] How The Prophetic Word Came: (1:20)
① The human channels
② The verbal presentation
③ The scribal preservation
④ The Spirit's agency
⑤ The Spirit's methodology

II.- WARNINGS ABOUT APOSTASY — 2:1-22

A.- CONFUSION THRU FALSE TEACHERS (2:1-3a)

1- The Men Who Are False (2:1)
[a] - The Pseudo
[b] - Prophets in Israel
[c] - Teachers in the Church
① Their Time
② Their Place -
③ Their Way

2 - The Message Which Is False: (2:1)
- [a] Its Character
- [b] Its Content
  - (1) Denial of Christ's Person
  - (2) Denial of Christ's Work
  - (3) Denial of Christ's Coming
- [c] Its Condemnation
  - (1) Destructive
  - (2) Defiling
  - (3) Defamatory

3 - The Methods Which Are False (2:2-3a)
- [a] How they operate
  - (1) Teach falsely
  - (2) Teach destructively
  - (3) Teach denial
- [b] What they do
  - (1) Deny truth
  - (2) Destructive ways
  - (3) Draw defamation
  - (4) Display covetousness
  - (5) Declarations are feigned words
  - (6) Dealing as merchandise

B. CONDEMNATION OF FALSE TEACHERS: (APOSTATES) (2:3b-9)

1 - Declaration of judgment: (2:3b)
- [a] - The Emergence of the Sentence
- [b] - The Estimation of the Sentence
- [c] - The Execution of the Sentence

2 - Demonstration of Judgment (2:4-6)
- [a] - Judgment fell on Angelic Hosts (2:4)

[b] Judgment Fell on the Antediluvian World (2:5)

[c] Judgment Fell on the Cities of the Plain (2:6)

3- Deliverance From Judgment (2:7-9)

[a] Instances Of Deliverance:

① Noah + his Kinfolk (2:5)

② Lot + his daughters (2:7)

③ Application

[b] Circumstances Of Deliverance (2:8)

① Filthy behavior

② Internal conflict

[c] Assertion Of Deliverance (2:9)

① Reassurance for the righteous (2:9a)

② Retribution for the ungodly (2:9b)

C.- CONTRAST WITH FALSE TEACHERS (2:10-11)
(APOSTATES)

1- Among Teachers — Fearless Blasphemy (2:10)

2- Among Angels — Fearful Reverence (2:11)

D.- CHARACTER OF THE FALSE TEACHERS: (2:12-22) (APOSTATES)

1- Marks of these Apostates:

[a] Animalistic Behavior (2:12-14)

[b] Abandoned The Right Way (2:15-16)

[c] Absence Of The Spirit (2:17)

[d] Acknowledged The Truth (2:20-22)

① The Predicament — 2:20

② The Proposition — 2:21

③ The Proverb — 2:22

2 – Ministry of these Apostates:

[a] Deceiving the Unstable (2:14)

[b] Declaring empty Words (2:18)

[c] Deceiving promises (2:19)

(1) Promises

(2) Persons

[d] Destructive Bondage (2:19c–21)

2 PETER — Chapter 1

Writer — Peter
Date — A.D. 66 (Gromacki says 64-67) just months after 1 Peter + just months before his martyrdom

Comparison of 2 Timothy + 2 Peter

LIKENESSES:
1- Both writers know their martyrdoms are near at hand
2- Both writers are divinely sustained and joyful.
3- Both writers foresee APOSTASY

DISTINCTIONS:
2- Peter traces apostasy to false teachers who deny redemption truth
1- Paul finds apostasy in its last stage in which the laity have become infected
3- John shows a deeper denial than Peter, for he shows a denial of Christ's PERSON
4- Jude shows all the elements set forth by Paul, Peter + John
5- YET none of these writers is pessemistic or dejected. The PROMISES OF GOD are still the sure refuge of the child of God

Key term — Know / Knowledge 16 times in 61 verses (1:2, 3, 5, 6, 8, 12, 14, 16, 20; 2:9, 20, 21 [twice]; 3:3, 17, 18)

Outlines

I - Knowledge And Its Principles — PROGRESS OF GROWTH
1:1-21
SAFEGUARDS AGAINST THE APOSTASY

II - Knowledge And Its Perils — PROGRESS OF ERROR
2:1-22
DESCRIPTION OF THE APOSTATES

III - Knowledge And Its Promise — INCENTIVE TO GROWTH

Gromacki New Testament Survey, P. 359+

SECOND PETER

Writer

NB

On the basis of both external and internal evidence, the canonicity and the authorship of Second Peter have been attacked more than that of any other New Testament book. However, upon close investigation it can be demonstrated that these rejections rest more upon subjective speculation than upon positive proof.

It is true that second-century Church Fathers did not comment upon the Epistle in their writings, but their silence should not be used as an argument against the nonexistence of the book in their day or against its Petrine authorship. Silence must be looked upon as being neutral. Any suggested reason for their silence must be regarded as plausible speculation. Evangelicals generally explain their silence by the late date of its composition, its brevity, and its limited distribution; however, even this view cannot be proved to the satisfaction of all. Furthermore, no extant third-century writing denied its Petrine authorship. Eusebius quoted Origen as saying "Peter has left one acknowledged Epistle, and perhaps a second, for it is disputed."[1] The names of the disputers were not mentioned, so no one for sure knows who they were. In addition to Origen's probable acceptance, Methodius and Firmilian attested to its authenticity. Fourth-century writers (Jerome, Athanasius, Augustine, and Ambrose) accepted it and so did the famous church councils at Laodicea (A.D. 372) and Carthage (A.D. 397). Although objective proof in the form of direct patristic quotations is not as extensive as that for other New Testament books, the testimonies do favor the Petrine

1. *Ecclesiastical History*, VI, xxv, 8.

authorship of the Epistle. The argument of the opposition does not rest upon a variety of firm statements denying its authenticity, but rather upon silence.

In relationship to the internal contents, opponents of Petrine authorship usually point to contrasts of writing style and vocabulary between the two Epistles. This typical liberal argument can usually be explained by the (1) differences in subject matter, (2) in the circumstances that created the writing, and (3) in the use of a different amanuensis. It may even be that Peter used Silvanus to write the First Epistle (5:12) and that the apostle wrote the second one by himself. Arguments based upon style and vocabulary are admittedly subjective. Actually, there is ample similarity between the two Epistles in content, grammar, and use of words to suggest a single author for both of them. Both salutations are identical as far as word choice and order: "Grace to you and peace be multiplied" (literal translation, I Peter 1:2; cf. 1:2). Several unique words are common to both books: "precious" (1:1, 4; cf. I Peter 1:7, 19; 2:6-7); "put off" or "putting away" (1:14; cf. I Peter 3:21); "eyewitness" or "behold" (1:16; cf. I Peter 2:12; 3:2); "supply" (1:5, 11; cf. I Peter 4:11); "conversation" (2:7; 3:11; cf. I Peter 1:15, 18; 2:12; 3:1, 2, 16); and "brotherly kindness" or "love of the brethren" (1:7; cf. I Peter 1:22).[2] The phrase "without spot, and blameless" or "without blemish and without spot" occurs in both (3:14; cf. I Peter 1:19; see also 2:13).

There is also a striking resemblance between the language of the Second Epistle and that of Peter's sermons recorded by Luke; "obtained" (1:1; cf. Acts 1:17); "godliness" or "holiness" (1:3, 6, 7; 3:11; cf. Acts 3:12); "unlawful" or "wicked" (2:8; cf. Acts 2:23); "reward of unrighteousness" or "iniquity" (2:13, 15; cf. Acts 1:18); and "the day of the Lord" (3:10; cf. Acts 2:20).

The writer identified himself as "Simon Peter" (1:1). He used *Sumeon* rather than the common *Simon* (cf. Matt. 16:17). If this book had been written by a forger or by a person using the pseudonym of Peter, he would have used the common Hebrew designation to avoid drawing attention to himself. Only the real Peter would have identified himself in this way to readers who knew him affectionately by that name. Many critics claim that pseudonymity[2] was a well-known literary practice in the ancient world; however, there is no indication that the church which believed in honesty and truth accepted its use. In fact, many

2 The latter two are English translations of single Greek words.
3 There is a difference between a pseudonym and a pen name. Samuel Clemens wrote under the fictitious pen name "Mark Twain." A pseudonym would be if a modern author wrote under the name of Ernest Hemingway, using the style and the name of that great writer to gain an audience for his book.

pseudepigrapha ("false writings") bearing the names of the apostles were rejected.

Within the book Peter made several references to his past personal relationships with Christ. He knew that his martyrdom was imminent as predicted by Christ during His postresurrection ministry (1:13-14; cf. John 21:18-19). He spoke of the significance of his eyewitness account of the transfiguration of Christ (1:15-18; cf. Matt. 17:1-13).

Peter identified this letter as his second one: "This second epistle, beloved, I now write unto you" (3:1). The fact that he did not locate the geographical home of his readers (1:1) would cause one to believe that he wrote to those he had addressed in his First Epistle (1:1). The strong authentication of the Petrine authorship of the First Epistle should therefore support his authorship of the second because of the continuity between the two books. They are two volumes of the same set. Jude apparently used Second Peter and recognized its author as an apostle (Jude vv. 17-18; cf. 3:1-3). Actually, the quotation by Jude serves as first-century evidence of the existence and the inspired, authoritative nature of the Epistle. The claim that the false teachers (2:1—3:5) represent second-century heretics cannot be supported objectively. The New Testament constantly warned against the present and future presence of apostates (Acts 20:29-31; Rom. 16:17-18; I Tim. 4:1; II Tim. 3:8; I John 2:18-19; 4:1). Peter was simply describing the false teachers of the middle of the first century.

In conclusion, it can be demonstrated that the alleged attacks upon the Petrine authorship are not as awesome as first voiced. Furthermore, a strong case for his authorship can be established by a careful study of both the patristic writings and the internal contents of the Epistle.

1 Peter — SUFFERING
2 Peter — TRUE KNOWLEDGE

SALUTATION — 2 Pet. 1:1-2

Loving servant in time + eternity

Simon Peter — Servant — Apostle

Simon Peter — OLD NATURE

Servant — New Nature

Servant — Doulos — Most abject + servile name for a slave of the 5 words the Greeks used for one who serves

- By birth
- By conquest
- By purchase
- By voluntary choice

Apostle — Eyewitness of Christ's resurrection (Acts 1:22; 1 Cor. 9:1-5

— Signs of an apostle were his accreditation (2 Cor. 12:12)

I. - SAFEGUARDS AGAINST APOSTASY — 1:3-21

A. - THE MATURITY OF BELIEVERS — 1:3-11

The best defense is a strong offense!

Life of maturity is a safeguard against APOSTASY

1 - GOD'S NORMAL MAN — HIS POSITION 1:3-8

a. Described as to ENDOWMENTS (1:1-4)

- All of Grace
- All by "Divine Power" only — Eph. 1:3
- "obtained" λαχοῦσιν — to receive by divine allotment / BY LOT

1:1 ① FAITH w/ us — Lk. 22:32
- Like precious faith = Like in value + honor
- To JEW + GENTILE alike ± NO PARTIALITY ± No clergy/laity preeminence

② RIGHTEOUSNESS of God
- Source of our faith provided righteousness
- JUSTICE = the Virtue which gives all their due
- ± Imputed righteousness

1:2 ③ GRACE + PEACE
- FRUIT of the SPIRIT's presence + ministry — Order — Grace precedes Peace
- Tranquility is our portion

④ Their KNOWLEDGE of God (GENERAL) ΕΠΙΓΝΩΣΙΣ = Knowledge gained by experience
- Acc. to His Divine Power
- Given us ALL THINGS — 39 results of
- "of our God, even Jesus the Lord"

1:3 ⑤ LIFE + GODLINESS = "Worship rightly directed"; PIETY
- Both are "of God" + HIS DIVINE POWER
- Provides all we need — GRANTED, BESTOWED
- Used of ROYAL BESTOWALS — No strings attached

Zoe = Vitality + Animation

spiritual dimension beyond the Physical

Δωρεάς

⑥ KNOWLEDGE of Him (SPECIFIC)
- Personal rel. to Christ — Phil. 3:10
- To (= BY) glory + virtue

1:4 (7) PROMISES related to Second Coming of Christ
- Great promises (3:4, 13 — PERSONAL PRESENCE)
- Precious promises 1:1, 4; 1 Pet. 1:7, 19; 2:6-7

(5)

(8) Partakers of the DIVINE NATURE
- Source of new life + actions
- Guarantee we will escape world's corruption through lust (= Passionate cravings)

Escape by flight — RUN!

"this divine nature implanted in the inner being of the believing sinner, becomes the source of this new life + actions" WUEST P. 22

b — We "have it all" from God as to our endowment in being saved! No reason for failure due to lack of adequate resources provided by God,

* However, there is a need for PRACTICAL DEVELOPMENT in the Christian's life!

"Sow a thought, Reap an act.
Sow an act, Reap a habit.
Sow a habit, Reap a character.
Sow a character, Reap a destiny.

c — Descib... 5-7)) ...ense Effort!

KJV sounds as if we add one building block onto another. OK indicates that in exercising one virtue another is developed!

DILIGENCE - ...DEVELOP

(1) Toward ...

Vincent says ... translate it "FOR THIS VERY CAUSE, ADD...

1:5 FAITH — TRUST, DEPENDENCE — this is our part to do
- We are to use our faith; Exercise it!

VIRTUE (= MORAL COURAGE + EXCELLENCE) + Inner + Outer
- Also the energetic exercise of our capacities so we are ACTIVE + not passive in our Christianity

KNOWLEDGE (in Scr.)
HOW? — (1) Hear (2) Read (3) Study (4) Memorize (5) Meditate

1:6 TEMPERANCE (= SELF CONTROL)
- Passions + appetites, especially sensual ones: SEX, FOOD, LUXURIES
- Under control — Commandment Living
- GAL. 5:23 as Fruit of the Spirit

PATIENCE (Rom. 5:4)
- In check out line of supermarket
- On Freeway traffic at rush hour
- At Bank drive-in when cashier dawdles.
- SAINTS are to accomplish these virtues in themselves by determined self-discipline of their tendencies

(2) Toward GOD:
- GODLINESS (= TRUE PIETY)
- Seems to grow out what has occurred in the believer's own life — What he personally becomes
  — Shows as Godliness (PIETY) before God

1:7 (3) Toward BRETHREN: φιλεω + αδελφος
- BROTHERLY KINDNESS or AFFECTION
- Gal. 6:10
- Fondness
- FAMILY response is appropriate + expected

(4) Toward ALL

- CHARITY = LOVE (AGAPE) = Responsible actions
  - Col. 3:12-14
  - Harmonious w/ God's Nature
  - Produced by H.S. in the YIELDED BELIEVER

(5) Quote — Bunyan — "the sum of religion be the practical part

- Gromacki — "A maturing Christian will not only produce positive spiritual fruit but will also protect himself from falling from his steadfastness." See 1:10 + 3:17

[d] Described as to USEFULNESS: (1:8)

(1) Godly characteristics existing IN him

- "Possession of the Christian virtues by the believer is a natural, expected thing by reason of the fact that he has become a partaker of the divine nature — Not present one day & gone the next" WUEST, P. 25
- "BE" = Exist
  - These things belong to the verb "TO BE", not the verb "TO HAVE" for they belong in the realm of character, of what, by His grace, we become.
- And ABOUND = Superabound; Be OVERFLOWING because of the Spirit's overflowing life —
  As an ARTESIAN well whose source is higher than its outflow
  - * Illus — Farmer once said to his helper who tended to fill buckets to 3/4 full, "the buckets are never full until they are running over."
    SO a Xn is never filled w/ the H.S. + sp. blessings until his life is running over w/ the good things of God in refreshing OTHERS!

(2) Overflowing FROM him — Jn. 7:38
— Ps. 23:5

③ Not BARREN (Gk. is IDLE) = non-working
- Not failing to press on

④ Not UNFRUITFUL
- Phil 1:11
- Jn. 15:5, 8
- Jer. 17:7-8
- Neither STALE nor STAGNANT, but Actively abounding
- Eph. 2:8-10
- Developing toward usefulness in the FULL KNOWLEDGE of our Lord

2 - GOD'S ABNORMAL MAN - HIS PRACTICE

1:9-11

He is CARNAL = Unspiritual manifestation of the old nature due to lack of yieldedness
- Written to those called "BELOVED" 3:1, 8, 14, 17
- Also called "BRETHREN" - 1:10

a Lacks That Are SERIOUS (1:9)

① - "But" - A different story from 1:1-8

② - "BLIND" - Τυφλος - Metaphoric of one who does not see clearly. Root meaning is that he has smoke in his eyes. Same idea in Rev 3:17
- Spiritual sight is clouded so that the eyes are off of Christ. See 1 John 2:11

③ "CANNOT SEE AFAR OFF" - μυωπαζων = "being short sighted", MYOPIC; seeing only that which is near; occupied with earthly things
- Heaven's values are not in focus

Though he may be quick enough in regard to worldly matters.

④ "HATH FORGOTTEN THAT HE WAS PURGED FROM HIS OLD SINS" λησμονη - Includes a wilful forgetting, putting from the mind by choice
- Forgiveness of sins has been relegated to the closet of his mind
- Joy + peace + love are banished
- Preoccupied w/ earth-life

WUEST "He is carrying around with him his justification, but not availing himself of his sanctification." P. 27

b. Lacks That Are FAR-REACHING

① Idleness (1:8)

- Not IN for growth + worship – MAINSPRING!
- Not OUT for service – EXPRESSION
- Lazy, ignorant, rebellious, complaining

② Unfruitful (1:8)

- Expected to produce FRUIT + not just leaves
- Must plant so as to reap
- Ps. 126:5-6
- Failure to see clearly leads to this lack
- Contrast – "GIVE ME SCOTLAND OR I DIE"

③ Impaired Vision (1:9)

- Prov. 29:18 – "Where there is no vision, the people perish"
- NO VISION – For personal walk
  - For personal growth
  - For needs of brethren
  - For LOST SOULS
- Illus – 2 Pet. 1:5-8 are the lenses of the telescope of our souls. As we add lenses our sight increases. As we lack even one, our vision decreases.
- Jesus' admonition – John 4:35-38

④ Divisions Arise (1 Cor. 3:1-9)

- "Envy, strife + divisions" – 3:3
- Insistence upon own way
- Desire for preeminence = DIOTROPHES
- "Walk as men"
- CAUSE is fleshliness of life due to being spiritually starved + practically not exercised.
- DIVISIONS – PARTY SPIRIT cause the Name of Christ to be blasphemed + a loss of spiritual effectiveness.

⑤ Dull of Hearing (Heb. 5:11-)

- Not just the EYES are affected
- EARS also! – 2 Tim. 4:3-4
- Actually, the whole person – Rev 1:4-6
- Can't or won't take deep truth + solid food
- SAMPLERS of a spiritual smorgasbord

rather than CONSUMERS of the balanced meal of the whole counsel of God. (9)

- Not HEARTY PARTAKERS
- Heard the truth a long time, but have not obediently + immediately responded.
- Need a blast from heaven to awaken them

(6) Not Teaching (Heb. 5:12)

- Age in spiritual life indicates they OUGHT to be givers as well as getters.
- Not only those w/ the GIFT of teaching
- ALL BELIEVERS
  - Have a ministry of teaching to some
  - Own children + grandchildren
  - Own converts
  - Own spouses
- MILK diet instead of MEAT
- Still only receiving, when they ought to be sharing with others — SOFT FOOD instead of SOLIDS

(7) Unskilled in The Word (Heb. 5:13)

1 Cor. 3:2

- Consequence of spiritual MALNUTRITION
- Expected to be ABLE TO SHOW from the Scr. what you believe
- 1 Pet. 3:15 is ~~for~~ all!
- If unable — "HE IS A BABE" — = Undeveloped

- KNOW
  - Salv. is sure
  - Assurance is settled
  - Doctrine is structured
  - WHERE TO FIND in Bible — Ch.+ Vs.
- ABLE
  - To show others God's truth
  - To feed yourself
  - Practical applications to life
  - 2 Tim. 2:2; Col. 4:6; Col. 3:16-17

- God expects us to deal with these lacks

- HOW??

C Lacks Can Be CURED! — HOW?

① Divine Physician Consulted:

- Rev. 3:17–19 — Go to the Lord about YOUR LACKS
- Condition must be evaluated
- Chastening must be faced if there is no dealing with desperate problems
  - EYESALVE of repentance needed
  - Alternative will be REBUKE, and then CHASTENING
- A HEART matter toward the Great Physician

② Proper Diet Followed:

- Heb. 5:14; 1 Cor. 3:2
- Diet has been unbalanced
- NOT because a balance was unavailable
- It has been there:
  - * But neglected
  - * Or passed by
  - * Even rejected!
- SAVED, but STUNTED.
- Addicted to the bottle + wanting to be spoon-fed, instead of personal feeding
- NEED — Personal digging into God's truth for one's own self.
  - BALANCE in diet
- Illus — Charles Reiter's FFA boys on Trip to 1939 World's Fair in San Francisco. Though they had sufficient money for food most ate HAMBURGERS three meals a day for 9 days

③ Proper Exercise Experienced: (Heb. 5:14)

- Lack seen in "IDLE" + "UNFRUITFUL"
- No production from these lives
- No discernment between good + evil
- Truth must be
  - RECEIVED
  - PUT TO USE
- Endowed + privileged is not enough
- EXERCISE is essential!!

- Phil. 2:12-13
- Baseball pitcher must EXERCISE his arm to "deliver" what he is capable of pitching.

— CONTRAST * Dead Sea
* All inflow + no outflow
* DEAD!

— Sam Jones held "QUITTING MEETINGS"

④ Proper Diligence Given! (2 Pet. 1:10-11)

— "BRETHREN" are addressed

— "Give diligence" σπουδασατε

- Meanings - "to hasten to do a thing; to exert oneself" Bend every effort.
  - "was forward" — Gal. 2:10 ("zealous") RS
  - "endeavoring" — Eph. 4:3
- Other Uses - 2 Pet. 1:15 — "endeavoring... to have these things always in remembrance"
  - 2 Pet 3:14 - "be diligent that ye may be found of Him in peace, without spot, and blameless."

— About WHAT are we to be exerting ourselves?

- CALLING sure
- ELECTION sure

Legal term of a guaranteed title to which you can go back to prove validity

- These are works of God for men.
- Be sure we are partakers and not fakers

— RESULTS of proper diligence

- NEVER FALL (= be done away) πταισητε (fall under judgment)
- ENTRANCE shall be ministered abundantly εἰσοδος

Contrast w/ "saved yet so as by fire" 1 Cor. 3:15

— Remember — You can't take it with you
— But you can send it on ahead!

— HOW do I save my backside?

B:- THE TESTIMONY OF THE APOSTLE - 1:12-18

Peter's Pedagogical Principle

- TOLD them in the past
- TELL them in the present
- WRITE IT for a permanent record
  - X No inspired prophets today
  - X But we have inspired writings from the Yesterdays

1-Peter's PRESENT TRUTH (1:12-14) (12)

a. What "Present Truth" is Not:

① No hint of APOSTOLIC SUCCESSION:
- No popery
- No hierarchy
- No oral tradition
- No denominationalism

Ecclesiastical offices

- Rather, we are vouchsafed the SCRIPTURES which will endure to all generations.

② No hint of APOSTOLIC SUCCESS:
- Some things relate to ACTS + the transition period from LAW to GRACE, from ISRAEL to the CHURCH
  - Thronged saved at apostolic preaching
    Acts 2:41; 4:5; 5:14; 6:7
  - Bodily healings to accredit ministry
    Acts 3:6-11; 4:29-31; 5:12-16
  - Messages given by revelation + not by study of revealed truth
    Acts 4:7-14,
  - Pooled possessions to sustain the ostracized believers - Acts 4:32-37
- Later ministry in Acts shows the pattern that emerged

NT

  - Personal witness
  - One-by-one decisions
  - Follow-up of converts
  - Congregating the believers
  - Organizing local churches
  - Thrusting out more workers
  - FAITHFULNESS is emphasized, but the numerical flood of new converts is not found!

b. What "Present Truth" is:

Vincent "the truth which is present with you than the instruction of your teachers; not the truth at present under consideration."

① Remembrances about Jesus Christ
② Revelation about Truth
③ Enscripturized record which is permanently available

Kelly - "To slight the present truth was to love God and His Son, for it alone puts the believer into living relationship with God." (P. 76)

C. Peter's Testimony (1:12-14)

DO GOOD!

1. Rejects negligence of ministry
2. Practices diligence in prodding remembrance
   "KEEP ON ROUSING YOU UP"
3. Desires establishment in present truth (WORD)
4. Exercises ministry — 1 Pet. 5:10
   - TO STIR UP — Exhortation
   - PUT YOU IN REMEMBRANCE — Focusing on Christ
5. Anticipates death
   - Jesus' promi
   - Earlier expe
   - Long life +
   (A.D. 29 — 6
   - NO FEAR a
   - Learn from
   but a TUN
   - Probably "shortly

"Tabernacle" = TENT designed for temporary utilization / a frail tent, erected for a night. Similar useage in 2 Cor. 5:1,4

WUEST (P. 29)

"The preacher & teacher should be an intense student of the Word of God, bringing his hearers fresh, new truth with the dew of heaven upon it. But there is a place for the repetition of the old truths which the saints know well. Much of it has not yet been put into practice, and the fact that it is repeated gives the Holy Spirit an opportunity to make it experiential in the life of the believer."

ED
EIX-
ON
VE,
OLENCE
death.

2-Peter's PERMANE
WITNESS OF TH

D. Peter's Apostol

"endeavor" = bend every effort

Preparation

(1) These things

- A ref. back to 1:12 + "Present Truth"
- Need for these things to be made permanent
- After my decease
  = EXODUS (Lk. 9:31 — Our Lord on Mt. of T
  (Heb. 11:22 — Israel out of Egypt

* Interesting that Peter uses 2 words in passage found also in transfiguration record + here
  Decease + Tabernacle

- Kelly — "No safeguard entrusted to the Church, not to ministers only, but to all saints is so sure and unfailing as Scripture." (P. 95)

(2) These ways

- Now while alive people can SEE Peter's

godly life among them
• LATER – Peter will die + be no longer available
– Then they will have written records PERMANENT
• From his own pen – 1+2 Peter
• From his "own son" – Gospel of MARK
• His readers need only reread these chapters at any time, and thus effect for themselves the recollection of "these things". (Lenski, P. 249) — "always" for remembrance

b Peter's Apostolic Rebuff: (1:16)

Negation

① Not fables/myths — μῦθος
• Ref. to Jewish myths which were Rabbinical embellishments of O.T. History
• Or Gnostic speculations about emanations from God
• cunningly devised inventions of untruth have not been the "stock in trade" of Peter + other apostles; Message not artfully framed by human cleverness.

② But historical reality
• Record in all 3 Synoptics – Mt. 16:28 – 17:13
• Evidence of POWER – δύναμις
– Inherent power
– Able to produce results
• COMING = παρουσία = Personal presence
– Often used in papyri of ref. to the arrival of a King or some important official
– 3:4 "Where is the promise of His coming?"
– Milligan sees this as a foreview of Christ's SECOND ADVENT,

(3) Personal Testimony

- WHO? — Peter, John + James
- WHERE? — BIG THREE — Mt. Hermon in southern Lebanon north of Israel
  - No angels seen
- WHAT? — Conversation
  - w/ Moses; rep. of LAW
  - w/ Elijah; rep. of PROPHETS
  - Discussed Jesus' decease in Jesus.
  - Also Christ's glory was seen as He was transfigured before them
- HOW? — Eyewitnesses w/ their own eyes they were spectators
  - Privilege to be present as Christ parted the curtain of time + showed them the spectacle of GLORY to be fulfilled in His Kingdom over Israel
- "Majesty" — Superlative term of greatness, magnificence + visible splendor
  - Also Lk. 9:43 + Acts 19:27

POINT — AVOID the error of the Puritans who apply this verse to the power of Christ in the preached gospel for saving from guilt + corruption of sin. Transfiguration was significant not of grace to perishing sinners, but of that glorious Kingdom of God to come, which will consist of heavenly things as well as earthly, and the Lord the glorified chief and centre of them all.

Kelly, P. 97

C. Peter's Apostolic Report: (1:17-18)

Affirmation

① What was seen?

- Only what we've already reviewed previously Mt. Sinai
  - On the HOLY MOUNT
  - Jesus
  - Moses + Elijah
  - 3 Disciples — Peter, James + John
- Background information that what there occurred "from God the Father"
- PREVIEW of Christ's coming KINGDOM

② What was heard?

- VOICE — φωνῆς = Intelligible language Acts 2:6
  - Borne along — φέρω — Passive Voice
  - from — ἀπό = by means of
  - Source — "EXCELLENT GLORY" = that which is befitting splendor, excellent greatness, sublime majesty
  - Used in LXX for Deut. 33:26
  - Vincent refers it to the BRIGHT CLOUD on Mt. of Transfiguration as similar to the SHEKINAH GLORY above the Mercy Seat in the Jewish Tabernacle.
- WORDS — "This is My Beloved Son in Whom I am well-pleased"
  - First at Jesus' baptism — Mt. 3:13-17
  - Now at PREVIEW of the KINGDOM
  - Testimony to Jesus' Deity
    - Peter in Mt. 16:16
    - Testimony of heaven in Mt. 17:5
    - Recorded in 3 Synoptics
  - "Well-pleased" = In Whom I have found all My delight.
    - GOD says this of Jesus
    - Can I say this of Jesus Christ?

- I OUGHT to find in Him my fullest satisfaction!

③ What was omitted?

- "Hear ye Him" in gospel records
- Not repeated + recorded here by Peter
- WHY?
- "Our apostle omits the clause they carefully record, not because he could or would forget it, but to make the more prominent the good pleasure the Father had in Him, the beloved Son." (Kelly, P. 105)

NEED
- Turn your eyes onto Jesus
- Then be occupied with HIM whether you find silence, or whether He speaks some truth through His Word

④ Review
- EYE witnesses who saw
- EAR witnesses who heard
- WHY?
  - a - So we can remember (1:15)
  - b - So we can avoid being led astray (1:16)
  - c - So we can center attention on JESUS
- Peter has learned his lesson
  - * In Mt. 17:4 he suggests building 3 Tabernacles
  - * NOW — the whole center of attention is JESUS!

3-Peter's PROPHETIC TRUTH - (1:19-21)

Witness of the Prophets from the O.T.

(a) What the prophetic Word is:

(1) It is PROPHECY

DEF - Something previously hidden + now revealed thru a prophet; Word from God
- Message from God which springs forth from God to man via a prophet
- Often to the future re salvation + glory, but also divine counsels + foretelling of the future = prediction

SO - Prediction is the central character of prophecy as seen biblically
- SPOKEN
- WRITTEN

⊙ NOT primarily a forth-teller in the sense of a preacher of today

- Hogg + Vine "With the completion of the canon of Scripture prophecy apparently passed away, 1 Cor. 13:8-9. In his measure the teacher has taken the place of the prophet, cp. the significant change in 2 Pet. 2:1. The difference is that, whereas the message of the prophet was a direct revelation of the mind of God for the occasion, the message of the teacher is gathered from the completed revelation contained in the Scriptures." (Thess, Pp. 196-197).

- EXAMPLES of prophecy
  - (a) Enoch - God's judgment - Gen. 5:21-24 + Jude 14-15
  - (b) Noah - God's way of deliverance - Gen. 7:1
  - (c) Abram - God's promises - Gen. 12:1-3

(2) It is IN WORDS

Important to understand HOW God has revealed truth to men:

- Not in general ideas
- Not just in concepts
- Not a mixture of truth and error which we are to sort out
- BUT in WORDS that have been God-breathed + hence are authoritative
  - 2 Tim. 3:16
  - 1 Cor. 2:13
  - ILLUS "NOTE GOOD FOR ANY AMOUNT"
  - Ex. 4:15; Deut. 8:3; Isa. 59:21; John 6:63; 1 Thess. 2:13; 2 Tim 1:13; 2 Pet. 3:2
  - SO A saying or expression or statement by God

(3) It is SURE

- Term very often used in connection with the words of God's promise
- Meaning – Firm; Steadfast; Trustworthy
  - Made more sure or firm
  - "What is meant is not a comparison between the prophecies of the O.T. + the N.T., but that the former have been confirmed in the Person of Christ," VINE, P. 96
- Actually, in God's Word you have a better certified record than what the apostles saw with their eyes
  - EYEWITNESSES can be wrong due to preconceptions or biases
  - PROPHETIC WORD is God's authoritative record
  - "We have something surer still in the prophetic Word. It was not

the miracles of Christ by which Peter came to Know Jesus, but the Word of Christ as interpreted by the Spirit of Christ." Samuel Cox

(4) It is a SHINING LIGHT

- A squalid, dark, dry, neglected, murky surrounding is where man finds himself.
- W/o a light to illuminate the darkness we do not see clearly.
- ILLUS On a dark night in Nicaragua I was on my way in a 2 hour hike to get to a preaching point to speak to believers. It had rained + was still overcast. We carried lanterns + were carefully making our way down the path as we descended a hill. Someone behind me lost his footing. He fell into me, + into another + so on. Our lantern was shattered and we had a very hard task picking our way onward. There we borrowed a STRONG FLASHLIGHT for the trip back after a 2½ hour preaching service. What a help!!
- Scriptures are likened to a lamp
  - Ps. 119:105, 130
  - Matt. 25:1-13
- LIKENED - To O.T. Prophecies which afforded at least some Knowledge relative to the coming of Messiah at the Second Advent.

(5) It is A HERALD of our coming Savior.

- Likened to a MORNING STAR in the darkness before dawn.
- ALL WE NEED in this world until we see Jesus

- We need to TAKE HEED to God's Word
- WHY? - Because in it 1:3 has told us that God has "given unto us all things that pertain to life and godliness."
- What we know of the coming Savior we know because of truth revealed in the Scriptures
- HOW? Take heed in our HEART
  - Place of inherent wickedness Jer. 17:9
  - Place where life decisions are settled. Prov. 23:7a

b. What the prophetic Word is not: (1:20-21)

(1) It is not unknowable

- "Knowing this first"
  - Ref. back to "whereunto ye do well that ye take heed" (1:19)
  - KNOWABLE — John 7:16-17
- As believers are to attend to O.T. prophecies, they are to keep in mind what follows in 1:20-21
- PROPHECY OF THE SCRIPTURE
  - Most of N.T. not yet written
  - What has been written has not yet been universally circulated in 1st century
  - ∴ a ref. back to the O.T. Scriptures.

(2) It is not of private interpretation

- "PRIVATE" = Unique, one's own
- Kelly - "It is hard to see why the

- AV + RV adopted 'private' except that they did not know what to make of it." (P. 110)
  - —NASB "one's own"
  - —NIV — "by the prophet's own"

— INTERPRETATION
  * ἐπιλύσις, a loosening, an unlooking
  * generally translated INTERPRETATION
    - Not that of the reader of Scripture
    - But that of the true prophet who spoke or wrote. Borne out by 1:21
    - Robertson — "Peter is not here warning against personal interpretation as the Roman Catholics say, but against the folly of upstart prophets with no impulse from God."

— Perhaps the best translation is "ORIGINATION" = Not originating from any prophet himself, but coming from the true God revealing truth.

— Another perspective speaks of it as PARTICULAR or LIMITED MEANING
  - Here the idea is that the prophet did see how his prophetic utterance fit into the local & contemporary scene,
  - But the prophet either dimly or not at all perceived a future double reference to his words. Nonetheless prophecy does include a near view and a far view.
  - So All of prophecy needs to be "seen together" as part of a big picture of the whole counsel of God.

(3) It is not by the will of man (1:21)
- Man is the channel of revelation
  - * Vocabulary + style varies
  - * Personal training + experience do show through
  - * VARIATIONS among 40 writers over 16 centuries of writing are present
- Yet man is not the willing source of Scriptural revelation. That originating source is GOD!

(4) POINT — J. Sidlow Baxter, (Studies In Problem Texts, P. 62)

"Peter's subject prophetic witness — how it did not originate, and how it did originate. The subject is not the "interpretation" of Scripture at all, but the origination of it; not what Scripture means, but whence it came."

C How the prophetic Word came: (1:21)

(1) The human channels:
- Not angels, but men
- Not women, but men
- Not unholy men, but holy men!
- HUMAN AGENTS chosen + empowered by God
  - Moses
  - Joshua
  - Samuel
  - David
  - Ezra
  - Isaiah
  - Jeremiah
  - Ezekiel
  - Daniel
  - Hosea
  - Jonah
  - Micah
  - Nahum
  - Habakkuk
  - Zephaniah
  - Haggai
  - Zechariah
  - Malachi
  - Job
  - Solomon, etc

- Chosen by God
- Specifically chosen and prepared by God for the truth to be revealed to them and channeled through them to us.
  - Individualities retained
    - "Straightway" in Mark
    - Doctor's terminology in Luke (2:6-7; 8:42-44)
    - Scribe's legal brief in Romans
    - Love emphasis in the 1st epistle of the apostle of love

(2) The verbal presentation

- Matthew – Emphasis on The KING of Israel and His Manifesto for the nation
- Mark – Emphasis on the SERVANT character of Jesus Who came to serve + give His life a ransom
- Luke – Emphasis on The HUMANITY of Jesus as deals with Jesus birth, baptism, temptation, call to ministry, prayer and poverty
- John – Emphasis on The DEITY of Jesus as proven by His miracles. Also the fact that God gives LIFE to those who BELIEVE (98x) on Christ
- Kelly – "If God inspired the writings, He suggested, He selected, He included, He left out. He gave the thoughts and the words; He guided and controlled all. This is Scripture." (P. 87)

(3) The scribal preservation

(a) In the initial writing of texts
- In their own handwriting – Gal. 6:11
- Or by use of an amanuensis Rom. 16:22

(b) In the circulation of texts
(c) In the accumulation of texts
(d) In the determination of THE CANON
- Receiving 27 in N.T. + 39 in O.T.
- Excluding the Apocrypha
- Excluding the Pseudepigrapha

(4) The Spirit's agency
- MORE than a human process to bring to our hands the Scriptures
  - Revealed
  - Inspired
  - Inerrant
  - Authoritative
- Work of the Holy Spirit (1:21)
  - ONLY ref. to H.S. in 2 Peter
  - SOURCE of what we have in Bible
    * Not by the will of man
    * But by the operation of the H.S.
    * DIVINE AGENCY!

(5) The Spirit's methodology
- The question is HOW?
- "MOVED" = φαΝΕΡΩ
  - "borne along"
  - A favorite word of Peter's; 6 times in 1 Pet. + 2 Pet.
- ILLUS Acts 27:27 "were driven" = "were borne along"
  Idea of a boat w/ a sail moved by an unseen force of wind. SO the prophets of God were "borne along" by the unseen power of the Holy Spirit.
- Neither human investigation nor origination; Reason is not enough! It takes

REVELATION by the Spirit for us to have God's Word inscripturated for us.

—PLATO — 4 centuries before Christ

"We must lay hold of the best human opinion in order that borne by it as on a raft, we may sail over the dangerous sea of life, unless we can find a stronger boat, or some sure word of God, which will more surely and safely carry us."

—Praise God, He has given us a more sure word of prophesy!

Concl Peter dealt with a second safeguard in these days of apostasy, departure from truth:

1:1-11 A holy life safeguards the believer

1:12-21 The Holy Scriptures safeguard the believer.

It is a rigid adherence to the doctrine of full, verbal inspiration of the holy Scriptures. This is THE CRUX of the controversy of this century between FUNDAMENTALISM and MODERNISM, between TRUTH and COMPROMISE!

"Carnal Blindness" 2 Pet. 1:1-14; esp 1:9

Intro: A.-Last Week--GOSPEL BLINDNESS---(2 Cor 4:3-4)
1-Natural
2-Satanic } True of the Unsaved ONLY
3-Judicial
4-Too bad, however, that "spiritual eye trouble" is not limited thereto.

B.-This Week---CARNAL BLINDNESS:
1-True of Brethren--2 Pet.1:10
2-Spoken of by Peter, Paul, & Writer of Hebrews
3-Sad picture at best, but most clearly seen set in relation to "GOD'S NORM"-------ILLUS---Convention of Migets--One named "Slim" and another "Tall Boy"-------fine-----until you see them next to the REAL NORM, and then even the best are but "SHORTY"

I.-GOD'S NORMAL MAN----------POSITION

A.-Described As To Endowments: --2 Pet.1:1-4
1-Faith---with us 1:1
2-Knowledge---general 1:2
3-Knowledge---specific 1:3
4-Promises---Basis of our living 1:4

B.-Described As To Character: ---2 Peter 1:5-7
1-In self--Faith, Virtue, Knowledge, Temperance, Patience
2-Toward God---Godliness or Piety
3-Toward Brethren---Kindliness
4-Toward ALL-----LOVE

C.-Described As To Usefulness: ---2 Peter 1:8
1-Godly characteristics existing in him
2-Overflowing from him
3-Not IDLE
4-Not unfruitful---Jn. 15:8 - Jer. 17:7-8

II.-GOD'S CARNAL BELIEVER ---------PRACTICE

N.B.---Remember, this is a SAVED man
----Define CARNAL---"Unspiritual manifestation of the old nature due to lack of yieldedness."

A.-Lacks That Are Serious: Needs Help Of Divine Physician
1-Begun with the constrasting "BUT"----different story here.
2-BLIND---spiritual sight not centered on Jesus--2 Pet 1:9; 1 Jn. 2:11
3-SHORTSIGHTED---eyes off of heaven & on the world--1 Jn. 2:15-17
4-FORGETFUL--Foregiveness is not thereby removed.
--But joy & peace of soul are gone
--Spirit brings up not peace, but inconsistency
5-DIET is not balanced---not because unavailable
1 Cor.3:2 ---there, but passed by
---Believers SAVED, BUT STUNTED
---Simple truths spoon & bottle fed
---Caused by not PERSONALLY digging into the Word.-----Heb. 5:13-14
BALANCE NEEDED!
Dad R. Took busload of F.F.A. boys to 1939 W. Fair in S. Francisco. Though all had sufficient money. Most of them ate LAMBERGERS for 3meals for 9 days.
ILLUS
6-EXERCISEis missing---Therefore Idle & Unfruitful
He.5:14 ---No discernment of good & evil
---Truth must be used. To be endowed & privileged is not enough.
---ILLUS---Pitcher in baseball must EXERCISE what is in his harm to get the most out. Phs. 2:12-13

B.-Manifestations That Result From These CARNAL Lacks:

1-IDLE--------Not "out" serving God
2 Pe.1:8 -Not even "in" worshipping God
-Due to---Ignorance
---Laziness
---Rebellion---ILLUS--One day a man gave his son some instructions as to how he wanted a certain thing done. Thinking he had made it very plain, he said, "Now, do you understand?".....And to his amazement the son replied, "NO."....Then he asked him, "Why not?". The son said, "Because I don't want to." ....Isn't that so often the case also with the sons of God??????

2-UNFRUITFUL---We must plant to reap Ps. 126:5-6
2 Pe. 1:8 -Failure in planting, watering & cultivating will inevitably lead to barrenness.
-Disciples = "Learners & Followers" to be bearing FRUIT, not LEAVES---Jn. 15:8

Jn. Knox - "Give me Scotland or I die"

4-DULL OF HEARING---Eyes alone are not effected, but the whole
Heb. 5:11 -Can't take & absorb deep & rich truth.
2 Tim 4:3-4 -"Samplers" of a Biblical Smorgasbord, but not eating the meal of the laboring man
-Heard truth so long they need a Heavenly Operation to blast them loose.

3-NO VISION---"Where there is no vision, the people perish" Pr. 29:18
2Pe.1:9 -No vision for personal growth
Jn.6:9,11 -No vision for the needs of the brethren
-No vision for LOST ones---MUST GO TO THEM!!!!
-ILLUS---2 Pet. 1:5-7 are the lenses to our telescope. Add each one & our power of sight increases; Diminish one and our sight diminishes.

5-NOT TEACHING---Age shows they ought to have ability to pass on.
He.5:12 --This is speaking of ALL believers, & not just those with the GIFT of teaching.
2 Tim 2:2 ---Instead of sharing what you are receiving & have received, have need of someone to go over "milk" with you AGAIN.
--Called "BABES" --So 1 Cor.3, but "Babes in X" and "Brethren", so definitely saved.

6-UNSKILFUL IN THE WORD--Take the Bible & show anyone what you
He. 5:13 believe in the Spirit of 1 Pet. 3:15
--Know doctrine---by name
Col. 4:6 + 3:16-17 ---by Scripture refs.
--Able to show others
--Able to feed self

7-DIVISIONS----Not manifesting the "Unity of the Spirit in the
1 Cor.3:3 bond of peace" Eph.4:3
Insistence on First Place.
--Fleshliness is the base of ENVY, STRIFE, DIVISIONS, SCHISMS, MEN BEING EXALTED
Causes NAME OF CHRIST TO BE BLASPHEMED
--ILLUS---"Walk as men"--no discernable diff. in walk & talk & attitude from the UNSAVED.
Ep. 5:21

Dutch Navy motto: "If we knock together, we sink together"

CONCL: A.-Position of Believer 2 Pet. 1:1-7
1-Heaven high & loaded with privileges
2-Antidote to the carnality which follows

B.-Practice of Believer 2 Pet. 1:8-9
1-Carnal in the extreme
2-Exhibited in 1 Cor.3:1-4; Heb. 5:10-14; 2 Peter 1:8-9
3-Tragic & shameful BLINDNESS due to living in the realm of the old nature

C.-Correction For Believer:
YOU EXAMINE YOU !
1-2 Pet. 1:10-11---make sure of self------Do things of 1:1-7
--No failure here---Abundant entrance.

"DANGERS OF PREACHING PROPHECY" 2 Peter 1:15-21

INTRO: READ ①

A.-Power Through Prophecy:

1-Church services were **cancelled**. A storm such as develops only in TEXAS engulfed the community. In his study D. K. Ferguson settled down with a small book which had lain, unread for years on his library shelf. It was W.E.Blackstone's "**JESUS IS COMING**".

All that day and far into the night Ferguson read the book & studied the truths it unfolded about our Lord's return. As a result, Ferguson was a DIFFERENT MAN. His spiritual life was changed; his doctrine was changed; his ministry was changed. The Bible was a **NEW BOOK** to him.

2-What happened to Ferguson has been repeated many times. The testimony of **MANY SPIRITUAL GIANTS** in the history of the Church has demonstrated that faith in the imminent return of the Lord Jesus; a love for His appearing and a knowledge of the prophetic truths of the Word of God can revolutionize the life & ministry of a christian. These men have found not only that the prophetic scriptures carried them closer to God in fellowship, but also that the study of GOD'S PLAN FOR THE FUTURE marked the turning point in their ministries.

3-Many--Evangelists
--Pastors,
--Teachers
--Leaders
--Men who have made prophetic truth a consistent part of their ministry have been OUTSTANDING MEN for God

4-APPENDED to the stenographic r eport of a prophetic Bible Conference in 1914 is a 7 page list of close to 500 historic and contemporary leaders who believed in and preached the PREMILLENNIAL COMING OF CHRIST. Names like:

--Bengel
--Alford
--Cristlieb
--Delitzsch
--Edersheim
--Faussett
--Godet
--Scofield
--Chafer
--Ryrie
--Walvoord
--M.R. De Haan
--Only a SAMPLING of men whose labors will bless the Church until the Lord the love returns again to the earth for His own.

A. McClain

5-That small book--"JESUS IS COMING", that changed the life of D.K.Ferguson, worked in the lives of many others to enlighten them to the truth of the PROPHETIC WORD & the return of Christ.

6-Charles G. Trumbull read the book at the suggestion of a friend who encouraged him to study the subject of the Lord's **SECOND COMING** with the promise that he would find it "**THE KEY TO THE BIBLE**", and thru that study Trumbull became a premillennialist

7-At one time it was the practice to give each graduate of Princeton Theological Seminary a copy of "JESUS IS COMING", as he stepped out the door of Miller Chapel after the Commencement Exercises

--Needless to say that practice has been **discontinued** in the Princeton of Today

--That was in the time of "**B.C.**" as Dr. Charles Woodbridge puts it---"B.C.==BEFORE THE CRASH"

B.-Prophecies Of Christ's Comings:

1-**FIRST COMING:**

--Humble origins

--Simple life

--Sacrificial death

--O.T. is replete with prophecies of Messiah's coming as a SIN BEARER

--Isaiah 53:1-12

--**Reality** that Jesus Christ was that Messiah of the O.T. prediction was proven by His MIRACLES

** Jn. 3:2--"Nicodemus came to Jesus by night, and said to Him, Rabbi, we know thou art a teacher come from God: for no man can do these miracles that thou doest, except God be with him."

** John 9:1-38

** Acts 2:22--"Ye men of Israel, hear these words; Jesus of Nazareth, a man approved of God among you by miracles and wonders and signs, which God did by Him in the midst of you, as ye yourselves know."

--Jesus **SHOULD HAVE BEEN RECOGNIZED!!!**

2-**COMING AGAIN**--Promised in the **words of the angels** at the disciples' last view of Christ as He ascended

--**Acts 1:9-11**

--1 verse out of every 26 in the N.T deals with this SECOND COMING

--Mentioned **250** times in the O.T.

--Mentioned **318** times in the N.T.

--M.R. DeHaan--"There is not a more certain truth in the entire Scriptures than the personal, literal, imminent return of the Lord Jesus to this earth.

--No other truth so frequently mentioned & earnestly stressed other than SALVATION

--**UNDATED RETURN**

** Acts 1:6-7--"When they therefore were come together, they asked of Him, saying, Lord, wilt Thou at this time restore the kingdom to Israel? And He said unto them, It is not for you to

know the times or the seasons, which the Father hath put in His own power (authority)".

** Mt. 24:36--"But of that day and hour knoweth no man, no not the angels of heaven, by My Father only

--Cannot know the **Hour** or the **Day**

--But we can know the **TIMES** and the **SEASONS**

(3)

3-ILLUS---In September 1938 a man who lived on Long Island was able to satisfy a lifelong ambition delayed by the depths of the depression. He then purchased for himself a fine **BAROMETER**. When the instrument arrived at his home he was extremely disappointed to find the indicating needle appeared to be stuck, pointing to the section marked:

"**HURRICANE**".

After shaking the barometer very vigourously several times, its new owner sat down and wrote a scorching letter to the store from which he had purchased the instrument, and on the following morning on his way to his office in New York City, he mailed the letter.

That evening he returned to Long Island, to find not only the **barometer** missing.....but his **house also**. The barometer needle had been **RIGHT**.

...There was a HURRICANE!

4-Yet.....How many people there are who seem to **disregard** the clear prophecies of the Word of God, treating them with indifference and disdain

5-EXPLANATION OF TWO COMINGS--**Frontal view** is a blending of the two comings

--Isa. 61:1-2; Luke 1:31-33

--No distinguishment of the TWO advents of the Savior

--**SIDE VIEW** shows a distinct "valley" between the two peaks of Christ's coming:

** Coming to provide salvation for sinners

** Coming to judge sinners & rule over Israel & the whole earth

2 OVERLAYS

6-Each day brings us nearer to His COMING AGAIN

7-Read together------**Romans 13:11-14**

C.-Our Message:

1-Outline: I.-DANGERS Of Prophetic Preaching:

II.-PROBLEMS Of Prophetic Preaching:

2-Prop--To forewarn of these

--To safeguard ourselves from excesses

--To walk the "narrow path" of biblical circumspection

--To commend the BIBLICAL POSITION to those who might well discard prophetic truth because of the extremism of some.

I.-DANGERS OF PROPHETIC PREACHING:

A.-Danger Of Date Setting:

1-Satan has done his best to **camouflage** this great doctrine with false dates & ALL KINDS OF HERESIES:
- --Christadelphianism
- --Russelism==Jehovah's Witnesses
- --British Israelism — Wresting
- --Mormonism — Twisting
- --Modernism — Denial

2-Date setting
- --**Confuses** the issues
- --Offends the unbeliever
- --**Deceives** the believer
- --SINCERE, but SINCERELY WRONG
- --ILLUS--Seventh Day Adventism; William Miller predicted the coming of Christ to earth for October 1844

3-TIME eventually proves date setting a danger if not an actual error

B.-Danger Of Personality Identifying:

1-NO authority for saying: "THIS IS THAT"

2-Need to exercise extreme caution & humility.

3-KAISER WILHELM identified with Zech. 11:17--"Woe to that idol shepherd that leaveth the flock! The sword shall be upon his arm, and upon his right eye; his arm shall be clean dried up, & his eye shall be utterly darkened." W.W.I

4-MUSSOLINI was "positively identified" in the early 1930s as the Antichrist by L. Sale-Harrison, a much read prophetic writer of that day

5-In the PROPHETIC TIMES of 1863 I read a discussion as to whether or not Napoleon III could be the Antichrist. The details were worked out in a compelling way. The name of the French Emperor was LOUIS NAPOLEON. The writer says: "Giving the name LOUIS it its Latin form, **LVDOVICVS**, we have the total numerical value of the letters---666

L==	50
V==	5
D==	500
O==	0
V==	5
I==	1
C==	100
V==	5
S==	0
	666 as the total

"So to," he continues, "by putting the name NAPOLEON in its **Greek form**, as if inscribed upon a monument, NAPOLEONTI, the total numerical value of the letters is, again, 666---------

N==	50
A==	1
P==	80
O==	70
L==	30
E==	5
O==	70
N==	50
T==	300
I==	10
	666 Total.

6-The man who devised that system is DEAD. Napoleon III is also dead, and the Antichrist has not yet come. The poor man must have had quite a time figuring all that out... By such personality identifications as these, the way of truth has been evil spoken of.

(5)

C.-Danger Of Biblical Ignorance:

1-Knowledge takes **FACTS**
2-**Facts take study** to unearth them & correlate them
3-**STUDY IS WORK** !!
4-It is just **easier to be ignorant**
5-Most people do **not know** their **Bibles**!!
6-ILLUS--A Church Board was examining the doctrinal commitments and convictions of a prospective candidate fro the pastorate of their church. One of the men asked the preacher what his position on the millennium was.

The preacher replied: "I'm a **PANMILLENNIALIST.**"

To this the Elder replied: "I'm familiar with Amillennialists, POSTmillennialists, and PREmillennialists, but I have never heard of a **PAN**millennialist. Would you please tell me what you mean by saying you're a PANmillennialist?"

To this the candidate replied: "I don't understand much about the subject of prophecy, but I guess it will **PAN OUT** ALL RIGHT in the end."

7-God's answer to that kind of viewpoint is 2 Tim. 2:15--"STUDY to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the Word of truth."
8-That's a need--In the PULPIT
--And in the PEW

BOTH

LITERAL INTERPRETATION

D.-Danger Of Lack Of System:

1-Place to start is **NOT** with the Book of Revelation
2-Must begin in the O.T.....and really with GENESIS
3-Then--Daniel
--Ezekiel
--Jeremiah
--Other Prophets
--N.T. prophetic books and passages
--**CULMINATING** in **Revelation** as a sort of "**GRAND CENTRAL STATION**" of prophecy
4-Avoid tangents
5-Don't become bogged down in pet theories or details
6-Follow "**MAJOR HIGHWAYS OF PROPHECY**" as L.S.Chafer suggested
--Gentiles
--Israel
--Church
--Kingdom
--Satan
--Judgments (7 of them)
--Resurrections (2 of them)
--Christ's comings ** First, To provide salvation
** Secretly, to rapture Church
** Second time to earth to judge sin & reign on earth.

7-Essential to have a DISPENSATIONAL approach to "sort out" the truths of prophecy into where & when they belong (6)

--ILLUS--My Father, Charlie Reiter's roll-top desk with its PIGEON HOLES across the top, where he knew where everything went & he could put an item away or find an item in the dark, because it was "a place for everything and everything in its place."

--ILLUS--If I were to set before you a TUB OF SCREWS of assorted sizes & ask you to separate them according to size, you couldn't do it by tossing them from one container to another. You'd have to have separate containers for each size of screws---

---as here in my case with many drawers

--JUST SO, you need to know where the prophecies fit in the plan of God for the ages.

II.-PROBLEMS OF PROPHETIC PREACHING:

A.-Problem Of Improper Emphasis:

1-Making a "hobby horse" out of prophecy

2-Emphasizing certain truths disproportionately

3-NEGLECT of prophecy altogether

4-ILLUS--Dr. Harold Englund, formerly Minister at Berkeley's First Presbyterian Church was once asked why he'd never once preached about Christ's second coming in 4 years of ministry at the Church.

He is reported to have replied: "I never preach about His second coming because so many do not know about His first coming."

PAUL'S BALANCE was: "I have not shunned to declare unto you all the counsel of God." (Acts 20:27)

B.-Problem Of Improper References:

1-Applying to WRONG GROUP--Ex. 20:8-11

--SABBATH is to Israel only

2-Applying to WRONG TIME--Mt. 24:14--"And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end be."

--Context relates that message to the Tribulation period

3-Applying to WRONG PEOPLE--Rev. 7:1-8

--Claimed today that Jehovah's Witnesses are the 144,000

--Bible says they will all be "KOSHER", because they are from named tribes of Israel, not Gentiles/

C.-Problem Of Spiritualization:

1-We here interpret LITERALLY unless that will just not make sense.

(7)

OVERHEAD

2-COOPER'S RULE--"When the plain sense makes good sense, seek no other sense."

3-Spiritualizing--Make it mean what you may want it to mean

--Reminds of the Mad Hatter in ALICE IN WONDERLAND "Words don't mean what they say, but what I want them to mean"

--That introduces CHAOS

4-EXAMPLES--Taking O.T. blessings addressed to Israel and applying them to the Church today.

--Taking O.T. curses addressed to Israel and saying that these still apply to Israel only

--THAT'S NOT CONSISTENT

5-ILLUS--Oswald T. Allis in his book "PROPHECY AND THE CHURCH admits that if we took all prophecy literally we'd have to be premillennial dispensationalists. BUT, he adds that since we are not premillennialists, then we cannot take predictive prophecy literally, but must seek some more spiritual sense. However, he does admit that all prophecy fulfilled so far has been LITERALLY fulfilled.

D.-Problem Of Wrong Purposes:

1-Tickling itching ears

2-2 Tim. 4:2-4

3-Claiming to be a "FINAL AUTHORITY"

4-ILLUS--Bob Thieme at Scofield Church's prophetic conference some years ago, when he told several of the Professors who had taught him in classes: "Now you sit up and listen while I teach you and show you how it really is".

5-Or.....having no purpose at all.

CONCLUSION:

A.-Recapitulation:

1-DANGERS of prophetic preaching--Date setting

--Personality identifying

--Ignorance of the facts

--Lack of a BIBLICAL SYSTEM

2-ERRORS of prophetic preaching

--Improper emphasis

--Improper reference & application

--Spiritualizing

--Wrong purposes

B.-Resolutions:

1-S T U D Y so as to be accurate & "true to the Book"

2-Attitudes--Spare us from dangers & problems

--Enable us to understand truth

--Inspire us to know what is really taught

--Impell us to share what we know

SERMON # 1 of a series. Next one is "WHY WE PREACH PROPHECY" under 2 Peter 3:1-9

Westbrae--4/15/73 #488--"I Know I'll See Jesus Some Day"
#131--"Christ Returneth"

GG Ch - 9/3/2000

"THE INSPIRATION OF THE BIBLE" (OR) 2 Peter 1:1-21
WHAT THE BIBLE TEACHES ABOUT INSPIRATION Ps. 138:1-2

INTRO: A.-Wesley On Inspiration:

THREE REASONS WHY THE BIBLE IS INSPIRED (Jn. Wesley)

"I beg leave to propose a short, clear & strong argument to prove the Divine inspiration of the Holy Scriptures. The Bible must be the invention of either good men or angel, bad men or devils, or of God.

1-It could not be the invention of good men or angels, for they neither would nor could make a book & tell lies all the time they were writing it, saying, 'Thus saith the Lord' when it was their own invention.

2-It could not be the invention of bad men or devils, for they could not make a book which commands all duty, forbids all sins, and condemns their own souls to hell for all eternity.

3-Therefore, draw the conclusion that the Bible must be given by Divine inspiration.

B.-Men's Views On Inspiration: (All attempts to avoid the clear & simple logic of Wesley's position are merely attempts to EXPLAIN AWAY)

1-Mechanical dictation--forgets the human side
--ignores the obvious differences between John, Paul, Peter, etc. in style & vocabulary
John R. Rice

2-Partial inspiration--Which part?
--Resolves to human discretion, not to Divine authority — Rationalism
--If part can be infallible, why cann't all be infallible?
--2 Tim. 3:16

Lump together

3-Degrees of Insp.--100% in some parts
--50% in some parts
--0% in some parts
--In WHICH parts & WHERE?
--Human reason again — Another form of Rationalism
--2 Tim. 3:16

4-Concepts only, not as recorded in the Bible
--Only 1 way to transmit or record concepts
--That is in WORDS
--So with Scripture
--1 Cor. 2:13--"Which things also we speak not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth, comparing spiritual things with spiritual."

5-Natural genius accounting for "inspiration" of Bible
--Difference between Chaucer & Canticles
--Difference between Thanatopsis & Thessalonians
--Difference between Milton & Moses
--Difference is more than the difference between 2 humans & their styles.
—Difference of human origin + divine origin

6-Mystical Inspiration--Relative & Progressive
--Not authoritative
--Not Complete
--Not final
--Not satisfactory

C.-Proper View On Inspiration (Verbal-Plenary Inspiration):

1-VERBAL--word by word
--all the words — each + every one
--as recorded in original languages
--Spirit guided & superintended
--Each word accurate & authoritative

2-PLENARY--extending to the whole
--not just some sections
--infallible in ALL parts

3-Product truly of GOD and MAN

4-Question of whether the Church has allowed herself to be deceived with a "roadmap" with which the Enemy has tampered?
NOT SO!

5-Illus---Infidels have been seeking to destroy the Bible for 1900 years. However, their firing away at the Bible has made about as much impression as if you were to fire away at Gibraltar with shot of BOILED PEAS.

I.-PASSAGES ON INSPIRATION:

A.-The FACT Of Inspiration--2 Tim. 3:16-17:

1-"All"--O.T. & N. T.
--Entirety of Bible; all 66 books — NOT the Apocrypha

2-"Scripture"--Gk. "graphe"
--"Used 51 times in N. T. as a technical term always denoting inspired writings" --Wm. R. Newell
--1 Tim. 5:18 calls "Scripture" quotations from Deut 25:4 & Lk. 10:7
--"For the scripture saith, Thou shalt not muzzle the ox that treadeth out the corn. And, The laborer is worthy of his reward."
--Thus, the "HOLY WRITINGS" of Jews (O.T.) and Christians (N.T.) combine to be "all Scripture"

3-"Is Given"--Gift with its origin in God
--Given in terms of WORDS, not merely concepts
--Verbal plenary inspiration
--1 Cor. 2:13--"Which things also we speak, not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth;"
--Ex. 4:15--"And thou shalt speak unto him, and put words in his mouth; and I will be with thy mouth, and with his mouth, and will teach you what ye shall do."
--Ex. 19:6-7--"And ye shall be unto me a kingdom of priests, an holy nation. These are the words which thou shalt speak to the children of Israel And Moses came and called for the elders of the people, and laid before their faces all these words which the LORD commanded him."

HOW?

--Ex. 24:3--"And Moses came and told the people all the words of the LORD, and all the judgments: and all the people answered with one voice & said: All the words which the LORD hath said will we do"

--Jn.6:63--"It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing; the words that I speak unto you they are spirit, & they are life."

--ILLUS It is said that a certain fraternal society sent out announcements advising its members that the annual "INSTILLA*TION" would be held. It caused a great deal of amusement. Of course they meant, "INSTALLATION".

Even one letter makes a big difference, as, for example when a man wrote a letter addressed, "DEAR FIENDS", having omited the "R";

Another similar occasion was when the newspaper spoke of the "BOTTLE-SCARRED VETERANS" who marched in a convention parade, which was almost as bad as the other newspaper in the city which spoke of the "BATTLE-SCARED VETERANS".

4-"By inspiration of God"--Not too meaningful a translation in Eng.

--Gk. == "breathed out by God"

--NOT a body of human writings into which something Divine has been breathed

--BUT Paul vigorously asserts these writings came into being because they were breathed out by God

--NOT as the word "inspiration" is often used of a poet or musician

--But as**Ezek. 33:7--"So thou, O son of man, I have set thee a watchman unto the house of Israel; therefore thou shalt hear the word at my mouth, & warn them from me."

**Deut. 8:3--"And he humbled thee & suffered thee to hunger, & fed thee with manna, which thou knewest not, neither did thy fathers know; that he might make thee know that man doth not live by bread only, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of the LORD doth man live."

B. B. WARFIELD:
"Inspiration is that extraordinary supernatural influence (or passively, the result of it) exerted by the Holy Spirit on the writers of our Sacred Books, by which their words were rendered also the words of God, and, therefore, perfectly infallible."

5-No need to be supplimented by TRADITION
No need to be edited by REASON

6-Profitable Because Inspired
--For doctrine==principles of behavior; teaching
--For reproof===cross-examination; shown what's wrong
--For correction==shown what's right
--For instruction in righteousness==positive indoctrination

7-To the end of believers being furnished for service

8-In his excellent sermon entitled "The Word Of God Not Broken & Not Bound," Dr. Robert G. Lee sums up this matter of verbal inspiration in one positive and pertinent paragraph.

"All Scripture is Theopneustos--literally God-breathed. This makes it plain that what we call inspiration is not the MAN, but the BOOK; not the WRITER, but his WRITINGS; not the SPEAKER, but his WORDS The purpose of God in inspiration was not to give us a number of in-

fallible MEN who would soon pass away, but to give us an infallible BOOK that would NEVER PASS AWAY. Between this position & infidelity there is no neutral ground."

B.-The Nature Of Inspiration (2 Pet. 1:16, 19-21):

1-"Sure"--1:16, 19
--Won't pass away
--Serves as a light in this DARK world

2-"Not of any private interpretation"
--Scofield's note is true
--Just not the point here
--Rather: "not of any private ORIGINATION"
--Explanation in 1:21 — SOURCE is not the human writer, but God Himself
--Not by human investigation & reason, but by inspired rev.

3-"For prophecy came not in old time by the will of man"
--Man neither COULD nor WOULD write thus, as Wesley said
--Man's histories are full of "good", not evil deeds
--Man would devise salvation by WORKS, not by God's gracious choice-----and the Arminians still try to do so.

4-"But holy men of God spake"
--"holy", not sinless
--"men"----DUAL authorship's one side
--man writes--2 Pet. 3:15--Paul

The PURPOSE of Inspiration — 2Tim 3:15

5-"As they were moved by the Holy Spirit"
--God's side of DUAL authorship
--ILLUS--The word that is translated "moved" or "borne along", is the Gk. word "FERO". Herodotus, the father of ancient history, uses the same word in his description of the crucial battle of Salamis Bay--the battle that marked the turning point in the defeat of the Persians by the Greeks. The Persian navy had been routed, the sailors had been killed, & the Persian boats, Herodotus tells us, were left to drift upon the sea.

In his account, Herodotus uses the Greek word "FERO", to describe the action of the wind & sea in transporting the drifting Persian vessels. Without sailors, without rudder, without oars, these Persian fighting boats were at the mercy of the sea. They were borne along, FERO, by a power not of their own, to a destination not of their own choosing.

Now, this is the very word that the Bible uses when it says, "Holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost." As they wrote, the authors of Scripture were borne along by the power of the Holy Spirit to the conclusion of their books, as God chose.

--Dr. WALVOORD has well stated--"Though the passengers have freedom within the limits of the boat, when the boat arrives at its destination, the passengers are also there. In a similar way, God carried along the writers of the Scriptures. Though they used their minds, wills & understanding, they were guided by the Holy Spirit so that what they wrote was God's Word, free from human error."

II.-THE IMPORTANCE OF INSPIRATION:

Neo-Orthodoxy — Neo-Evangelicalism

A.-Accuracy Of Inspiration:
1-Assures that what we read is TRULY the Word of God
--Not "contains," Not "becomes"
--But "IS" the inspired Word of God

2-No mistakes or contradictions, though there are some problems to which we don't have all the answers.....YET Big difference between OBJECTIONS and DIFFICULTIES

3-Gives assurance to the heart

4-ILLUS--We call this Bible a book; but there are 66 different books in it, written by 36 to 40 authors. A man may say, "I do not believe in the accuracy of the book of Esther." Well, what of that? Your disbelief does not destroy the book. However, even if your objection be allowed, we have 65 left. What will you do with them.

A man says, "I do not like this chapter & that." Suppose, for the sake of charity, your objections be allowed to stand. If you were on trial for murder, & had 66 witnesses against you, suppose you impeached one of them-----there are still 65 left. Impeach another & you still are opposed by the testimony of 64-----Surely enough to convict you and cause your execution if you are guilty.

Just so, the accuracy of all of the Word of God stands.

Ps. 19:7 — "The Law of the LORD is perfect, converting the Soul."

B.-Value Of Inspiration:

1-Extreme & Supreme--Ps. 119:72--"The law of thy mouth is better unto me than thousands of gold and silver."

2-Vital message to man's need

3-Word of God is TRUE--Ps. 119:42-43--"So shall I have wherewith to answer him that reproacheth me: for I ~~trust~~ trust in thy word. And take not the word of truth utterly out of my mouth; for I have hoped in thy judgments."

--Jn. 17:17--"Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth."

4-No need for the DEMYTHOLOGIZING of Bultmann & Tillich

5-No need for the accommodation to science as Neo Evangelicals insist upon

6-Inspired Word is TRUSTWORTHY to live by

7-The harmony of belief on the part of devout men is not the concord of ignorance, for ignorance is not capable of concord.

8-ILLUS---A mechanic was called in to repair the mechanism of a giant telescope. During the noon hour the chief astronomer came upon the man reading his Bible. "What good do you expect from that?" he asked. "The Bible is out of date. Why, you don't even know who wrote it."

The mechanic looked puzzled for a moment & then he said: "Don't you make considerable use of the multiplication table in your calculations?"

"Yes, of course," replied the other.

"Do you know who wrote it?" asked the mechanic

"Why no, I guess I don't."

"Then," said the mechanic, "how can you trust ~~it~~ the multiplication table when you don't know who wrote it?"

"WE TRUST IT BECAUSE.....WELL, BECAUSE IT ~~WORKS~~ WORKS, the astronomer replied testily. "Well, I trust the Bible for the same reason -----IT JUST WORKS.

C.-Authority Of Inspiration:

1-Ultimately not dependent upon proofs, but upon a PERSON

2-Jesus said--Mt. 5:18--"For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass , one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled."

--JOT refers to the smallest Hebrew letter of the alphabet called the YODH

--TITTLE refers to the smallest part of a letter that could change its meaning. As an example the horizontal bar that can change a capital "E" into an "F" by its removal

3-Christ accepted the Bible as inspired

--seen in His use of it at the Temptation

--Mt. 4:4,7,10--"It is written"

--also in His multitudinous quotations from it

--also in His rebuke of the Sadducees--Mk. 12:24--"Do ye not therefore err, because ye know not the Scriptures, neither the power of God"

--and again--Jn. 5:39-40--"Ye search the Scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me. And ye will not come to me that ye might have life."

--Christ accepted the Bible as inspired

--AND SO DO WE! — Reject His Word, You Reject His Person

--ILLUS--That famous scholar, Robert Dick Wilson, spent 10 hours a day, 6 days a week for 45 years in an attempt to authenticate the Old Testament claims to being the "WORD OF THE LORD" In so doing, he studied ancient languages for 15 years & mastered more of them than any man who has ever lived. He spent another 15 years studying the O. T. in the original Hebrew. Then he completed the 45 years by writing the results of his research in the final 15 years of his ministry. Wilson concluded that we can be absolutely sure that the Bible is what it claims to be---The Word of God recorded by man.

D.-Finality Of Inspiration:

1-"A profane book or document is received & accepted without hesitation, while the Scriptural record, if it contains the slightest suspicion of error, is summarily dismissed as unreliable with little or no discussion."

2-This is NOT GOOD SCHOLARSHIP.....because...

3-Scr. is not subject to improvement

--De. 4:2--"Ye shall not add unto the word which I command you, neither shall ye diminish ought from it, that ye may keep the commandments of the LORD your God which I command you."

4-Scr. is not subject to change

--Ps. 119:89--"For ever, O LORD, thy word is settled in heaven

--Dr. Behrends: "It is the fixed & immovable center of Divine truth 'forever settled in heaven;' it provides the basis of an infallible certainty, just as the sun, by its invisible, but constant & efficient energy, secures the stability of the planetary system."

5-Scr. is not subject to addition or subtraction
--Rev. 22:18-19--"For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book: And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, & out of the holy city, & from the things which are written in this book."

6-THUS WE CONCLUDE, Inspired Scripture is INFALLIBLE
--Jn. 10:35--"...the word of God came, and the Scripture cannot be broken"
--Man may break himself upon the "Gibraltar" of the God-breathed Word, but HE CANNOT BREAK THE WORD.
—Ps. 12:6-7—"The words of the LORD are pure words: as silver tried in a furnace of earth, purified seven times. Thou shalt keep them, O LORD, thou shalt preserve them from this generation for ever."

CONCLUSION:

OUR DECLARATION

A.-Theories Of Inspiration:
1-Many are "MAN-MADE", but fail to fit the facts---ALL of them
2-Verbal Plenary Inspiration
--does fit all the facts
--must be the proper view
--mechanics of it may not be perfectly understood
--Yet the only really satisfactory explanation
--VERBAL==Down to the very words
--PLENARY==Reaching to the entire whole & every part
--INSPIRATION=="God-breathed"

OUR DETERMINATION

B.-All Scripture Is:
1-God's Word
2-With a dual authorship
3-Perfect accuracy
4-Absolute authority
5-Proven finality in faith and practice
6-Therefore-----TRUSTWORTHY in every detail
7-ILLUS----Suppose that 50 men should just now walk thru that door. One man from Maine, another from Florida, another from Nebraska, and so on thru all 50 of the states, each bearing a block of marble of peculiar shape.

Suppose I pile these blocks in order until I have the figure of a man, perfectly symmetrical & beautifully chiselled, and I say, "How did these men, who have never seen each other, chisel out that beautiful statue?"

You say, "That is easily explained. One man planned that whole statue, made the patterns, gave the directions, and distributed them around. And so, each man working by the pattern, the pieces fit perfectly & accurately when completed."

Very well. Here is a Book coming from all quarters written by men of all classes, scattered thru a period of 1600 years; yet this book is fitted together as a wonderous & harmonious whole. HOW WAS IT DONE?
--"All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable..."
--"Holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost..."

ONE MIND inspired the whole Book. ONE VOICE--and it is the voice

of God---speaks thru its pages with RESURRECTION POWER!

Won't you
- TRUST the message of this INSPIRED Book as it reveals the sinless Savior of men?
- BELIEVE the record that God has given of His Son?

Westbrae--4/25/65

7/12/70 -

Calvary Columbus 10/19/75

Hymns: How Firm A Foundation -326
Open My Eyes That I May See 371
Standing On The Promises -328

Choir - The Solid Rock

II.- 2 PETER 2 | WARNINGS ABOUT APOSTASY

Reminder from Chapter 1 — SAFEGUARD in these Days of Apostasy + Departure from the Truth

1:1-11 — A holy life safeguards the true believer

1:12-21 — The Holy Scriptures safeguard the believer

Contrast from Ch. 1 to Ch. 2 is shown in "BUT" of 2:1 = "YET"

- In contrast with those who spoke by the Holy Spirit
- Now we'll face those who present their own message of denial, defilement + which leads to destruction.

A.- CONFUSION THROUGH FALSE TEACHERS (APOSTATES) 2:1-3a

1.- THE MEN WHO ARE FALSE: (2:1)

▶ Quest - "Peter has been (Ch. 1) speaking of the true prophets of God who wrote the O.T. Scriptures. Now he warns of the false ones." (P. 46)

a. PSEUDO = False
- Compounded into words w/ prophets + teachers
- 1 Kings 22:5-28 as an illus.
- Jer. 28:9 as Principle

b. Prophets in ISRAEL 15 centuries
- Some authoritative + true
- Some lying + false

• FALSE CALL + • FALSE MESSAGE than previous

1- TEACHERS in the CHURCH era

(1) Their time

- Peter speaks of them as FUTURE
- Jude writes of them as PRESENT (Jd. 4)

(2) Their place

- "among you" = WITHIN the church
  - Imminent threat from within the professing community
  - Acts 20:28-30
- Self-appointed spiritual ministers would arise
  - NOT called of God
  - NOT with a ministry in harmony with TRUTH
  - Tares among the wheat - Mt. 13:24-30

(3) Their way

- "privily" - Metaphor of SPIES introducing themselves into an enemy camp; stealthily infiltrating
- Wuest - "... the idea seems to be of the introduction of false teaching alongside the true, whereby the way of truth is brought into disrepute." (P. 46
- TO BE FOREWARNED IS TO BE FOREARMED!

2- THE MESSAGE WHICH IS FALSE: (2:1)

a- It's CHARACTER

- Deals w/ "Damnable heresies"
  = HERESIES OF DESTRUCTION or SECTS OF PERDITION
- Corrupting of truth
- aipesis = CHOICE OF A CONTRARY OPINION FROM THAT GENERALLY ACCEPTED AND TRUE

- With the adjective "damnable" or "of perdition" it indicates an introduction of DOCTRINAL DEVIATIONS (3)
- Usually "HERESIES" is used in the sense of a SECT or DIVERGENT TEACHING by those who are truly saved
- * Here the CONTEXT makes "heresies" the equivalent of apostasy, which is A STANDING AWAY FROM THE TRUTH

II Its CONTENT:

(1) Denial of Christ's PERSON (2:1)

INCARNATION

- "Even denying the Lord"
- "LORD" is ΔΕΣΠΟΤΗΝ
  - Originally used of one with absolute authority as Master of a household
  - In N.T. it is used as interchangeable with KURIOS (Lord)
- Strachan - "the denial seems to have consisted in an inadequate view of the Person and Work of Christ, and their relation to the problem of sin." (Expositors, V, P. 133)
- Refusal to admit of Jesus Christ that He was BOTH GOD AND MAN in One Person

(2) Denial of Christ's WORK (2:1)

BLOOD ATONEMENT

- "that bought them"
- αγοραζω = TO PURCHASE IN THE SLAVE MARKET
  - 2 Sam. 7:23 used of Israel
  - Mk. 10:45 used of Christ ransoming believers
- UNIVERSAL atonement has been

provided, which is not only for the ELECT, but also for the REJECTORS
- Christ has ransomed all mankind through His CROSS WORK
- Alford — "No assertion of universal redemption can be plainer than this." (IV, P. 402)
- SUBSTITUTIONARY ATONEMENT
  - * 1 Pet. 2:24; 3:18
  - * 1 Tim 2:5-6; 4:10
  - * Titus 2:11
  - * 1 John 2:2
  - * Heb. 2:9

Interesting that CALVIN passes this without any comment

(3)

Denial Of Christ's Promised COMING (3:4)

a. Its CONDEMNATION:

(1) a. "Destruction" — 2:1
"Destructive heresies" — 2:1
"Damnation" — 2:3 = "Destruction"
= LOSS of all that makes existence worthwhile

(2) b. Defiling
- (2:2) "PERNICIOUS WAYS"
- Ref. to their immoral ways
- Lascivious living = "EXCESS IN PERSONAL SENSUALITY"
- Life grows out of doctrine

(3) c. Defamatory — 2:2 — "by reason of whom the way of truth shall be evil spoken of"
- GENUINENESS of truth should bring forth TRANSFORMATION of life
- Actually the truth is discredited or blasphemed because of these false teachers. Thus, the whole church suffers in reputation because of these false teachers.
- Alford — "The connection of depraved moral conduct with erroneous doctrine was in the early ages of the church almost universal." (IV, P. 402

3.- THE METHODS WHICH ARE FALSE: (5)

a. HOW they operate:

(1) They TEACH falsely because they are themself false — PSEUDO

(2) They teach destructively, because their message will produce damation

(3) They teach blatant denial of the blood-bought salvation of Calvary

(4) In 1944 Dr. E. Myer Harrison wrote: "The cardinal errors of modernism are: (1) a mutilated Bible, (2) a minimized sin, (3) a deified man, and (4) a humanized savior"

b. WHAT they do:

(1) Denial of truth

(2) Destructive ways of living

(3) Draw defamation onto the cause of Christ

(4) Display a covetous spirit as they are out for their own profit only — (2:3)

(5) Declarations in "feigned words" — (2:3)

- From "to mould as clay or wax"
- Idea is of words moulded to suit their own imaginations
- PLASTIC - Worded speeches; lying words

(6) Dealing with truth as if it was merchandise (2:3) for their own advantage + to gain followers, = MAKE GAIN

B.- CONDEMNATION OF FALSE TEACHERS (APOSTATES) (2:3b-9)

The judgment upon false teachers has already been predicted in 2:1! However, there it is only an intimation of the destruction in store for them... After careful description of these TRAITORS AGAINST TRUTH, we find now a fuller declaration of the judgment to come upon them.

1- DECLARATION OF JUDGMENT: (2:3b)

[a] The Emergence Of The Sentence:

- "whose judgment now of a long time lingereth not, and their damnation slumbereth not"
- Reaching back into eternity to bring to light a SENTENCE decreed of old which will certainly be executed
  - * This sentence — Was settled long ago in the character & plan of God
    - Has been gathering up & impending ever since
  - * Outgrowth of the very nature of our HOLY GOD
    - LOVE for what is GOOD
    - HATRED for that which is EVIL
    - This is as old as God, so it is the emergence of a sentence from eternity

[b] The Estimation Of The Sentence:

- "it lingereth not" = "it is not idle"
  - * Represents a living thing alive & awake
  - * Began long ago & it continues to advance
  - * Strong & vigilant it will reach its mark

* IT WILL WORK ITSELF OUT!

- Sin has been piling up over the years + intervening judgment has not yet come
- But it surely will come!
- WHY NOT?
  - Delay is of God's grace to allow time for repentance + change
  - Rom. 2:4
  - But remember, judgment is NEVER WAIVED
- And failure to use the opportunity to repent will result in more severe judgment eventually

ILLUS Like a flow of Lava building up and ready to break through and overwhelm.

C. The Execution Of The Sentence:

- "their damnation lingereth not"
- "DAMNATION" = "destruction" (3X) in 2:1-3
  = "utter ruin; loss of all that makes existence worthwhile"
- "SLUMBERETH NOT" = "does not nod"
  - without haste or hesitation the time for the execution of the sentence moves progressively nearer.
  - This cessation of persons + separation from God + confinement in a place of judgment steadily advances without slumber or sleep, without rest or release
- * This judgment will inevitably fall upon its intended victims. THEY SHALL NOT ESCAPE!
- R.H. Strachan, EXPOSITORS, V, P. 133
  "You must not think that the judgment passed on all such long ago is inactive". Their destruction is awaiting them.

2-DEMONSTRATION OF JUDGMENT: (2:4-6) 8

(a) Judgment Fell On Angelic Hosts: (2:4)

- "Spared not"
  - God is UNSPARING when it comes to sin.
  - Even angels, a mightier class of creature than man, did not escape judgment
- "Angels that sinned"
  - * Genesis 6 for the record; Jude 6-7 for Divine commentary
  - * REBELLION was the sin that is clear
  - * Nothing in the text to teach that FORNICATION or cohabitation with women was involved as Wuest believes (NB)
- "cast them down to hell"
  - * ταρταρωσας is one word for this phrase
  - * PAGAN term; Place of detention until judgment
  - * Gromacki - "this has led to the conclusion that whereas unsaved men go to HADES to await the resurrection and judgment angels go to TARTARUS." (N.T. Survey, P. 365)
- "Delivered to chains of darkness"
  - * Given over into control of another
  - * "Chains" of KJV rendered "PITS" or "CAVERNS" in NASB + NIV; places of storage
  - * Darkness is a ref. to the gloom of the lower world; peculiar to Peter + Jude
- "Reserved"
  - lit "being reserved" indicates an action already going on
  - Their bondage is certain
  - CONTRAST 1 Pet. 1:4 where saints are with an inheritance "reserved in heaven"

(b) Judgment Fell On The Antediluvian World: (2:5)

- "Spared not" - Emphasis of repetition (2:4)
  - JUDGMENT is certain

- "old world" – Not a ref. to EUROPE or ASIA
  - But to the ANTEDILUVIAN world before Noahic flood
- "SAVED"
  - Already saved by faith before entering the ark
  - "PRESERVED" by being in the ark; Guarded so as to be safe from the judgment on the outside world
  - Gen. 7:16 – "The LORD shut him in"
- "Noah the eighth person"
  - * Only 8 were preserved in the ark
  - * NOT a ref. to 8th from Adam
- "PREACHER" = "A Herald"; "An ambassador"; Announcer of official business
  - 120 years of faithful service fulfilled before he was delivered
- "bringing" = "to cause to befall one"
  - Usually used of something EVIL
  - Judgment from God!
- "FLOOD" = Kataklysmos = "Cataclysm"
  - = An overwhelming w/ water; DELUGE
  - Also used in 3:6
  - Entire earth submerged; not a "local flood"; UNIVERSAL
- "Upon the world of the ungodly"
  - * It was in their control
  - * People destitute of awe + fear of God who refused to recognize + worship Him.
  - * STIFF-NECKED REBELLION!

C Judgment Upon Cities Of The Plain: (2:6 Fall)

- "Sodom + Gomorrha" – Cities on S.E. side of Dead Sea
  - Area of a fertile plain then so productive the pe-

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ple lived in luxury, idleness, + revolting indulgence

- "turned ... into ashes" = "to consume, to destroy, to reduce to ashes"
  - Strachan says this term was used in description of POMPEI + HERCULANIUM as "to cover up with ashes"

- "condemned them with an overthrow"
  * Complete obliteration
  * DIVINE JUDGMENT upon Sodomy !
  * "overthrow" is καταστροφη (="catastrophe")
    - Fire + brimstone from heaven
    - Molten lava + ash overtook them
  * Only exemptions
    - LOT
    - LOT's WIFE until she looked back
    - LOT's TWO DAUGHTERS

- "making them an example unto those that after should live ungodly"
  - Strachan - "constituting them an example to the ungodly persons of things in store for them."
  - Three examples:
    1. Angels that rebelled
    2. Populace of Noah's day
    3. Populace of Sodom + Gomorrha

- POINT:
  If God did not spare sin in the PAST, is there any reason to believe that God will spare these gross sinners of our day who pervert the teaching of divine truth by teaching falsehoods?
  HOLINESS of God demands that judgment must come again!

3-DELIVERANCE FROM JUDGMENT

As destruction by means of judgment is sure, so deliverance from judgment is also sure and shown in Scripture (2:7-9)

[a] The Instances Of Deliverance: (2:5+7)

(1) Noah + his kinfolk (2:5)

- Preacher of RIGHTEOUSNESS
  - (a) Judicially righteous before God
  - (b) Practically righteous in life before men
  - (c) Message to others VERBALLY + VISIBLY
- Not perfect, but a consistent testimony for Jehovah for 120 years
- KINFOLK heard / saw / BELIEVED!
- DELIVERED BEFORE the flood

(2) Lot + his daughters (2:7)

- "JUST man"
  - (a) Judicially righteous before God — BY FAITH
  - (b) Practical life was badly affected BY FAILURE
  - (c) Message was so blunted as to have no effect on his sons-in-law

(NB) * Hard to see Lot as a JUST MAN, but God so evaluates him

* NOTE, he is never called SPIRITUAL

- DELIVERED BEFORE the destruction

③ Applications:

HISTORIC → ⓐ God has heretofore delivered His righteous servants before catastrophes

PROPHETIC → ⓑ Believe He will again do so for the true Church with a Rapture before the Great Tribulation

ⓒ Also in lesser issues of Daily living

b. The Circumstances of Deliverance: (2:8)

① Filthy behavior of wicked men

ⓐ True in time of NOAH

ⓑ Also in time of LOT

- Appalling immorality = UNBRIDLED LUSTS (ἀθέσμος is a stronger term than ἄνομος)
- Yet Lot "settled down permanently around" w/ such vile him + his family.

② Internal conflict of righteous men

- "VEXED" - κατατυνόμενον - Here + Acts 7:24
  = "WORN DOWN"; "SORE DISTRESSED"
  = To test by torture
- Churned internally...
  BUT not willing to be SEPARATED from the evil he saw, as God commands!

- Wuest - "The vile lives of the people of these two cities wore Lot down as his soul rebelled against the filth he saw always about him." (P. 51)

  - "May it not be that in the use of the active (verb) a certain sense of personal culpability is implied? Lot was conscious that the situation was due to his own selfish choice." (P. 52, Wuest)

C The Assertion Of Deliverance: (2:9)

① Reassurance For The Righteous (2:9a)

- GOD
  - He able to deliver
  - He active in delivering
  - He assuring of deliverance
  - will rescue HIS VERY OWN!
- EUSEBEIS = "devout" in Acts 10:2, 7
  - Reverence manifested in actions
  - GODWARD attitude

Kelly – Though it is still the evil day & the enemy is not yet hurled from his place in the heavens (Eph. 6) the eye of the Lord is not closed to the trial of the godly any more than to unrighteous men. There is a constantly active care of His own to deliver out of temptation, as He reserves unjust men for another day when judgment must requite them." (P. 135)

- the godly do not get ~~ned~~ by false teachers
- the godly do not LOSE
  - Fellowship now
  - Reward later

- "Out of temptations"
  - EK PEIRASMOU – 1 Pet. 1:6
  - = Solicitation to evil
  - This becomes sin only when it ceases to be in opposition to one's will. TO YIELD — is TO SIN!
  - Strachan – "The idea here is primarily of those surroundings that try a man's fidelity + integrity, + not of the inward 'inducement' to sin, arising from the desires" (EXPOSITORS
  - OUT OF around, not IN them! while one lolls

② Retribution for the Ungodly: (2:9b)

- "Reserve the unjust"
  - * As God did bring judgment in the past, so He will judge + punish these evil-doers of the present also! PAST is precursor of the FUTURE!
  - * WARNING is set forth!

"DAY of judgment"
* God is a God of order + planning
* Day of judgment is set; Surely coming
* ACTS 17:31
* Men still alive can "flee the wrath to come" (Mt. 3:7; Lk. 3:7)

"To be punished"
- Here + Acts 4:21
- Better as RV "UNDER PUNISHMENT"
- Present participle
- Present punishment as well as future
- Luke 16:19-25 "thou art tormented"

"Since this entire passage is written to the professing church, it must be remembered that 2:9 is both an appeal and a warning for the purpose of safeguarding those who are walking in the shadow, and who, if they are not warned, may plunge out into the darkness of night." (Hoyt, Studies in 2 Peter, P. 66)

- False teachers will arise from within the church.
- Christians can be delivered from their error only if they heed that SURE WORD OF PROPHECY which is a "light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, + the day star arise in your hearts."

C.- C... Ft.
Acts ...

1- AMONG TE... — Ft. ...LESS BLASPHEMY; (2:10)

a Declaration! "them that walk after the flesh"
- Course of action of false teachers is clear

- σαρξ = TOTALLY DEPRAVED NATURE
  - An ethical term in N.T. denoting sin + the sin nature
- Declaration here
- Demonstration earlier that these false teachers' moral character demanded the judgment of God
  - * UNJUST (2:9)
  - * UNCLEAN (2:10)

b. Delineation Of Sins

- "Lust of uncleanness"
  - * Having dealt with the Sodomites, Peter now moves to LIBERTINES whose course of action is to follow their evil natures
  - * Jude 8 gives a ref. to those who defile or pollute the flesh
- "Despise governments" = "to think down upon"
  - * RV "dominions"
  - * KUPIOTNS is used in DIDACHE 4:1 in the abstract sense of the Lordship of Christ
  - * INSUBORDINATION
- "Presumptuous" — only here
  - = "Daters", "Daring"
- "Self-willed" — Here + Titus 1:7
  - αὐτός (SELF) + ἡδουή (to delight in)
  - = A self-loving spirit
- "not afraid to speak evil of dignitaries"
  - * "They tremble not"; SPIRITUALLY INSENSITIVE
  - * Contrast w/ MK. 5:33
  - * Lit. = TO BLASPHEME, to speak reproachfully
  - * "Dignities" = "Glories"
    - Probably of angelic powers.
    - They defy the spiritual powers though they know their might.
    - They scoff at the unseen
    - Jude 8-9

2- AMONG ANGELS — FEARFUL REVERENCE (2:11)

a The PERSONS of the angels:

= MESSENGERS of God

— Heb. 1:14 — "Are they (the angels) not all ministering spirits, sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation?"

— "Greater" — Higher order of creation than men

b The POWER of the angels:

* MIGHT = Indwelling strength — Mt. 12:29; 2 Cor. 10:10
* POWER = Ability, faculty; Usually power in action

c The PIETY of the angels:

* No blasphemous reproach against men or angels by these superior creatures; RAILING JUDGMENTS just do not fit from them.
* EXAMPLES — Jude 9; Zech. 3:1-2
* Modesty of the angels is in stark contrast to the INSUBORDINATION OF THESE FALSE TEACHERS

D. CHARACTER OF THE FALSE TEACHERS 2:12-22

1- MARKS OF THESE APOSTATES: — 4 of them

a Animalistic Behavior (2:12-14)

— "Natural" = φυσικα = Mere animals as they were made or born. Creatures of instinct, not of thought or reason — (1 Cor. 2:14)

— "Brute beasts" = αλογα = Unreasoning or irrational living creatures — Rom. 1:21-22

— "Made to be taken and destroyed"

* Piling up of descriptive terms
* DESTRUCTION is an emphasis of Peter + 2 x in this verse — JUDE 10

"Speak evil" = Blaspheme

"Shall utterly perish" = "Shall in their destroying surely be destroyed"
- NO resurrection to LIFE, but only to judgment in the second death

"Shall receive the reward of unrighteousness"
* = being destined to receive
RV = "suffering wrong as the hire of wrong-doing"
* REWARD = HIRE — w/ Balaam in 2:15
- Mt. 5:12; 6:1, 10:41
* Unrighteousness" = adikas; "Wages of iniquity". Here + Acts 1:18 of Judas

"Count it pleasure to riot" = τρυφην
= Lived delicately for pleasure"
IMMORALITY; Sexually incited
Barnyard Morality

"In the daytime"
Those whose daytime hours were not used as God intends, for working for a living. They live off of those whom they lead astray into false doctrine. Their daytime hours are used in soft living + luxury. They would not even delay their debauchery until cover of night.

"SPOTS" - Here + Eph. 5:27
- "Stains"; The dregs of humanity

"BLEMISHES" - Only here
= A blot; A disgrace

"Sporting themselves" - τρυφην
= Luxuriousness; To live in luxury; to revel in luxury.
* Same word used above

"With their own deceivings while they feast with you" * RV understands this as turning LOVE FEASTS into a reveling (So Alford, Vincent + Robertson)

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* Turning spiritual gatherings into sumptuous feasts that degenerate into drunken brawls.
* Comparable refs — 1 Cor. 11:20-22
— Jude 12

"EYES full of adultery"
* SIGHT — instrument of good
— OR instrument of evil
— Matt. 5:28 — "But I say unto you, that whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her in his heart."
* Lit, "of an adulteress"
* Robertson — "Vivid picture of a man who cannot see a woman without lascivious thoughts toward her."

"And cannot cease from sin"
* Unable to stop; Perpetual
* Degenerate revelry!

"Beguiling unstable souls"
* = CATCHING WITH BAIT" (Jas. 2:14 also)
* Unstable = not + established,
NOT SECURELY ANCHORED
1 Pet. 5:12; 2 Pet. 1:12

"an heart they have exercised with covetous practices"
* Awkward in KJV — "hearts trained in greed"
* Term for GYMNASTIC TRAINING

"cursed children" = "children under a curse"

SUMMARY!
Three verses (2:12-14) which compound the description of animalistic behavior which mark these apostate false teachers!

b. Abandoned the right way! (2:15-16)

"Forsaken the right way"
* Present tense ABANDONING,
* A perilous way of rejection
* Right = STRAIGHT road

Turning their backs on
Metaphor of right conduct
• Way of TRUTH
• Way of BALAAM

"Gone astray" — Result of abandoning the right way

FEET go wandering (MK. 12:24)

"Following the way of Balaam"
* AOR. PART. = "having followed out to the end"
* A covetous way; unusual repetition of terms
* Contrast with the RIGHT ways of the Lord (Acts 13:10)
* Balaam was a commercializer of his gifts; a HIRELING PROPHET
* False teachers are in the ministerial profession for the money they can get out of it.

"who loved the wages of unrighteousness"
* 2 Pet. 2:13 — "reward of unrighteousness"
* ILLUS — Demas — 2 Tim. 4:10 — Same term

"But was rebuked for his iniquity:"
* Had a rebuke — FROM GOD
— THRU DUMB DONKEY
* Because of his own transgression of God's limits — A LAWLESS WAY!
* This was his private & personal transgression. It could not be blamed on the King who solicited him to do evil! — PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY

"the dumb ass" — Beast of burden
— Normally without faculty of speech

"Speaking with a man's voice"
* Denotes a sound from an animal having lungs that makes a sound from the hearer's point of view
* Used by Peter here + Acts 2:18; 4:18
* An inarticulate animal spoke in a human voice — MIRACLE!

"Forbade the madness of the prophet"
* "Hindered, checked, restrained, remonstrated"

* Senseless way of man is rebuked by one with even less sense than Balaam
* VIVID REMINDER of God's judgment upon any + all who would prostitute God-given gifts for personal gain.

- SUMMARY:

2:15-16 have shown the certainty of divine judgment upon those who abandon the right way for the way of commercialization of spiritual things — BALAAM is an historical example of what the church will face in HIRELING PROPHETS!

C Absence Of The Spirit: (2:17)

- THREE figures of speech related to water
  - Wells, Clouds, mist
  - * To people utterly dependent upon nature's own supply of refreshment for sustaining life, these figures of speech were most graphic.
- Symbolism relates to lack of the HOLY SPIRIT ‡ John 4:14 ‡ John 7:37-39
- "Wells without water"
  - = "SPRINGS" as a better translation;
    - * A leaping fountain
  - Verdure attracts attention in the desert + promises refreshment. BUT there is not always water there, Its lack produces disappointment — MERE MIRAGES"
- "Clouds that are carried with a tempest."
  - * Better: MISTS; FOG
  - * Carried by a storm or a Squall; Such as sudden storms on Galilee (MK. 4:37; LK. 7:23) which would be known to Peter due to his home being in Capernaum.

So — Storm driven mists, but no moisture therein for the parched land.

"To whom the mist of darkness is reserved forever"

* Term "mist" is better as "blackness" related to the darkness, denoting a well understood DOOM; a SENTENCE OF DARKNESS
  - Death is not the end of false teachers, but WRATH is.
  - Sentence they face is in keeping with the DARKNESS they love.

* "RESERVED" — Perfect tense
  = "Has been reserved with the present result that it is kept in store"
  - For these the innermost prison is reserved with its most excruciating horrors because of the deception they have peddled

* "Forever" — Omitted in best MSS, but implied in the sense

SUMMARY:

These false teachers appear to promise a SPIRIT-empowered ministry, but it is a hollow promise which is never fulfilled. Thus their dupes are left with a dry, empty, unsatisfied feeling of non-fulfillment.

2 Acknowledging of the Truth: (2:20-22)

(1) THE PREDICAMENT — (2:20)

"They" is the FALSE TEACHERS

"Have escaped the pollutions of the world"

* "Pollutions" = "the things which defile"
* "Of the world" — KOSMOS system of evil under Satan's control

"Through the knowledge of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ"

* MENTAL ASSENT ONLY
* They know about Christ, but they do not KNOW HIM PERSONALLY as their Savior.
  - Information
  - But without APPROPRIATION!

"They are again entangled therein"

* RETROGRESSION
* Result of giving way to the allurements of lusts + passions
* ENTANGLED = "braided; interweaved"
  + Not the act of a moment
  + But a gradual process — DOWNWARD one step at a time
* OLD LIFE sucks them back into its vortex + pulls them down to destruction

"The latter end is worse with them than the beginning"

* Heb. 6:4-6 — Cain, Balaam, Judas — Simon Magus
* [illegible]

2 THE PROPOSITION (2:21)

"For it had been better for them"

* APOSTASY from known truth is worse than ignorance
* LIGHT of God's truth brings responsibility to respond properly
* Luke 12:47-48

"Not to have known"

* ἐπιγινώσκω — These false teachers had FULL KNOWLEDGE
  - Great opportunity
  - They sin against the light of God's truth

"The way of righteousness"
* Way of TRUTH — 2:2
* RIGHT way — 2:15
* Way of RIGHTEOUSNESS — 2:21
* God's way was clearly known to these false teachers, but they

"turn from the holy commandment delivered to them"
* DEPOSIT of TRUTH was in their hands + heads
* They turn away in REPUDIATION of the light they knew
* Reminds us of Rom. 1:20-23
* SO — The proposition is, that when sin is against the light of God's Truth, then Judgment will be more severe!

3 THE PROVERB (2:22)

"It is happened unto them according to the true proverb"
= "A short sentence based upon long observation"
* A true record of multiplied observations and verifications

"The dog is turned to his own vomit again"
* Quotation of Prov. 26:11
* Linking of DOG + HOG together recalls Matt. 7:6 "Give not that which is holy unto the dogs, neither cast ye your pearls before swine, lest they trample them under their feet, and turn again and rend you."
* BOTH were — Oriental scavenger animals
  — Unclean acc. to Dietary laws
* NEVER were these FALSE TEACHERS,

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(here called "DOGS" + "SOWS") numbered among our Lord's true SHEEP

- "The sow that was washed to her wallowing in the mire"
  - * Not a Scriptural proverb, but an observation often referred to in pagan sources
  - * "WASHED" — Unsaved teachers will reform + clean up the outside, experiencing moral reformation
    - But inward regeneration is lacking.
    - Therefore they and their converts go back like the pigs do.
  - *"WALLOWING"
    - Even if made clean, the pig cannot be made cleanly
    - Nature is still that of a pig + it is unchanged
    - Therefore, when opportunity arises, the pig will act like a pig — engulfed in filth.

SUMMARY:

A 4th mark of the apostate is seen:
1. Animalistic behavior (2:12-14)
2. Abandoning the right way (2:15-16)
3. Absence of the Spirit (2:17)
4. Acknowledging the Truth (2:20-22)

* To say "I KNOW THAT" does not make Truth "personal".

1. The Perdicament — 2:20

Mental assent to truth does not change lives in the present or destinies for the future. Those who RETROGRESS are worse off than before.

② The Proposition — 2:21

Apostasy from truth known is a fearful thing to occur as false teachers and their followers TURN from the holy commandment

③ The Proverb — 2:22

DOG + HOG are unclean animals used to illustrate that unchanged false teachers will inevitably return to their old ways

2 — MINISTRY OF THESE APOSTATES

4 of them — WHAT DO APOSTATES PRODUCE?

[a] Deceiving the Unstable (2:14)

— "Unstable souls" are under attack

* SATANIC origin channels
* APOSTATE
* Term = "Not securely anchored"
  - 2 Pet. 1:12 — "having been confirmed"
  - 1 Pet. 5:12 — "in which ye stand"
  - Here we have the NEGATIVE
* Apostates will divert people who follow them from finding Christ + His truth, which would bring stability to their lives

— "Deceiving" is the point of "Beguiling" 2 Pet. 2:14

* = "To catch with bait" as an angler who uses a deceptive lure
* Jas. 1:14 — "But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed"
* NIV = "seduce"; NASB = "enticing"

— SATANIC — 2 Cor. 11:3, 1 Tim 2:14) Similar term used in relation to Eve by Satan in Garden

POINT — Ministry of apostates is to catch the unwary w/ a bait which is not the truth of God, & hence to muddle their minds!

b. Declaring Empty Words: (2:18)

"Great swelling (words) of vanity"

* EXCESSIVE BULK in their declarations
* Oratorical flare that impresses their hearers — Here says NOTHING, but he says it SO BEAUTIFULLY

— "High wind, Much thunder, NO RAIN"

— Fordick, Blake, Peale, Sheen, Schuler

* See Rom. 16:17-19
  - "good words" = "smooth & slippery words"
  - Purpose is "to deceive the heart of the simple"

— "Vanity" = Futile, in vain, Morally insincere

— "THEY ALLURE" — Same term as in 2:14 & Jas. 1:14

SUMMARY — These APOSTATES are really persuasive "TALKERS" but their oratory is deceptive & leads their followers astray

Escaped from GENTILE VICES but not yet established in CHRISTIAN VIRTUES

c. Deceiving Promises: (2:19)

① PROMISES: "while they promise liberty"

- Antinomianism (= not responsible to law) is indicated.
- GRACE is often perverted in this because there is an ever-recurring confusion of LIBERTY and LICENSCE
- LIBERTY — A good & desirable freedom

— Gal. 5:1 — "Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, & be

not entangled again with the yoke of bondage"

- Promises of liberty (= freedom) are deceitful when they are empty promises by those who would entice and entangle.
- EVALUATE carefully the words of people in the light of their

(2) PERSONS:

"they themselves are the servants of corruption"

- GROMACKI: (N.T. Survey, Pp. 365-366)

"These false teachers were not saved men who went astray + subsequently lost their salvation. Rather, they had escaped the pollutions of the world through a change in life-style that was according to the Christian norm. Their PRACTICE of life had been affected by Christianity, but their spiritual POSITION remained unchanged. Like the dog and the sow their inner essence had not been regenerated. Time and the return to the old ways revealed that they had not been saved in the first place."

- "servants" — δουλος = "bondslaves"
  - These are in bondage as to their PERSONS + that controls their PRACTICES
- "Corruption" — signifies to destroy by means of corruption + to bring into a worse state.
- VINE — "There is nothing in any of these words suggesting or involving annihilation." P. 243
- POINT - Deceiving promises are made by deceiving persons who are themselves also in bondage.

2 Destructive Bondage (2:19c-21)

- "OVERCOME" = "worsted"; Perfect tense
  - "This one is enslaved with the result that he is in the state of slavery" (Wuest, P. 61)

- "BROUGHT IN BONDAGE"
  * the irony is that these false teachers are bondservants of corruption (NASV), being chained by the very practices they encourage in immature christians.

- ENTANGLED AGAIN — Retrogression
  - Not the act of a moment
  - But a gradual process
  - So "their latter end is WORSE than the beginning"
  - Illus — Matt. 12:43-45

- Thus, the destructive bondage they minister to others enmeshes them as well.

- SUMMARY — MINISTRY OF THE APOSTATES

  * Deceiving the unstable
  * Declaring empty words
  * Deceiving promises of liberty
  * Destructive bondage

STRACHAN — "Those who have been impressed with christian truth, + have had strength to separate themselves from their old surroundings + customs, but are led to return through the compromise suggested by false teachers."

INTRO:

A.-Deterents To Preaching Prophecy: (Seen in 1st Message; 2 Pet. 1:15-21)

1-Full of DANGERS--Date setting
--Personality identifying
--Ignorance of facts is rampant
--Lack of SYSTEM of interpretation

2-PROBLEMS are frequent--Improper emphasis on the truth
--Improper reference to verses to
--SPIRITUALIZING is often resorted /
--Wrong purposes can influence our prophetic preaching

B.-Opponents Of Prophetic Preaching:

1-THE SCOFFERS:
--2 Pet. 3:1-4
--One of the signs of our times
--ALWAYS has been true in this Church age
--But there is now an INCREASING INTENSITY of unbelief
--Quips of comparison:
** Slower than molasses in January
** Slower than the 7 year itch
** Slower than the Second Coming of Christ
--Little do such scoffers realize that they are being used of God to fulfill prophecy of the last days

2-THE WILFULLY IGNORANT
--Some won't study the Word
--Some won't discern the movement of world events
--Fail to see any "pattern"
--2 Pet. 3:5-7
--ILLUS--Southern Baptist Pastor in Placentia, who claimed to believe in the Second Coming of Christ, but who thought it SUFFICIENTLY UNIMPORTANT that he had never studied the subject---in fact---he had never read a single book on the subject.
--Heb. 10:37--"For yet a little while, and He that shall come will come, and will not tarry."

3-THE FEARFUL--Afraid of imbalance
--Afraid of fanaticism
*--Proper matters for CONCERN!
--But no reason to NEGLECT this vital area of Biblical Truth
*--Tremendous value of this hope is testified to by many of God's most useful servants. The book, "ONE HUNDRED WORLD-KNOWN WITNESSES TO THE SECOND COMING OF CHRIST" is very illuminating in this matter
--ILLUS--One of the most noted surgeons of all time was Johns Hopkins graduate Dr. Howard A. Kelly. He wrote on the night of his graduation from medical school: "I dedicate myself--my time--my capabilities--my ambition--everything to Him. Blessed Lord, set me apart to Thy uses. Give me no worldly success which may not lead me nearer to my Savior."

4-That same Dr. Howard A. Kelly, M.D., LL.D. wrote:
"One word covers the attitude of Christians in relation to this **expectation** of the coming of the **Bridegroom** to claim His Bride, and that word is **"IMMINENT."** Ever since our Lord passed beyond the confines of this earth into the heavens, the hour of His return, all unknown, has been **IMMINENT**; and our right attitude, therefore, is one of ** **constant expectancy**, with hearts fully prepared to give our Lord His fitting, royal welcome, when He appears, no longer as Sin-bearer, but with the holy angels and in His heavenly glory."

5-**AN EXPLANATION**------I suppose that all understand when we say that our Lord's return for His church is IMMINENT.
- **NOT**....that we know that He will return this day, or this year, or even this century
- **BUT**..that we do know that He **may return today**
- Nothing in the prophetic Word to say that some event must take place **before** He returns for His Church. The entire N.T. is unmistakable in its insistence on our constant **readiness** to meet the Lord

C.-Why This Message Of Introduction To A Prophecy Series?:

1-**SIX REASONS**
- Prophetic preaching honors the Bible
- Prophetic preaching overcomes ignorance
- Prophetic preaching reveals Christ
- Prophetic preaching benefits its hearers
- Prophetic preaching calls us to holy living
- Prophetic preaching constitutes a command

2-**Prop:**
- Since **God** has **put prophecy in** the **Scripture**
- Since God has set forth these **6 reasons** for the importance of prophecy
- THEN **WE NEED TO KNOW** PROPHETIC TRUTH !

I-PROPHETIC PREACHING HONORS THE BIBLE:

A.-Prophecy In The Bible:

1-Between 1/4th and 1/3rd of all Scripture when written was **PREDICTIVE PROPHECY**

2-In all ages God has **PRE-ANNOUNCED** certain things which He purposed to do.
- --These announcements are called **prophecies**
- → --Prophecy is **history PRE-WRITTEN**
- --Prophecy is **as credible** as any other portion of truth God has spoken
- --Almost all **66** Books contain some prophecy
- ** --**16 or** books are **wholly prophetic**
- --It is most reasonable to conclude, since every Bible prediction concerning the past has been **fulfilled**---**in minutest detail**---that we may expect all remaining prophecies to be just as **literally fulfilled**. !! !!
- *

3-Thus, the Bible is a **PROPHETIC BOOK** !!

4-Can't really be a **BIBLE PREACHER** without **preaching prophecy**.

B.-Fulfilled Prophecies Explained:

1-Where ??
2-In the BIBLE.....and that authoritatively!
3-Shows--The accuracy of God's revelation
--The literal interpretation of God's revelation is the ONLY logical & workable method
-The practicalness of God's truth

Mrs Carl Graef's father: "They who spiritualize tell spiritual lies, because they have no spiritual eyes."

4-ILLUS--More than a century before NINEVEH was sacked and burned by Nebuchadnezzar, while Assyria was still the greatest power in the world, and men thought it would never be overthrown, Nahum the prophet of God wrote: Nineveh shall be "...empty, and void, and waste" (Nahum 2:10)

5-ILLUS--While BABYLON was in its prime and all the world marvelled at its wealth and might, Jeremiah dared to foretell its doom in these striking words: "Babylon shall become heaps...without an inhabitant." Jer. 51:37

6-ILLUS--In the days of TYRE's supremacy in the Mediteranean world, when her island fortress still proudly defied the world, and her ships ruled the waves, God declared thru Ezekiel: "They shall destroy the walls of Tyrus, like the top of a rock. It shall be a place for the spreading of nets in the midst of the sea." (Ezek. 26:4-5)

7-No wonder H. L. Hastings once wrote:

> "So long as Babylon is in heaps; so long as Nineveh lies empty, void and waste..so long as Tyre is a place for the spreading of nets in the midst of the sea; so long as Jerusalem is trodden under foot of the Gentiles; so long as the great empires of the world march on in their predicted course---so long we have PROOF that one Omniscient Mind dictated the predictions of that Book, and 'prophecy came not in old time by the will of man.'"

* 8-With the liberation of JERUSALEM in June 1967 has come the EXPECTANCY that the prophetic clock of God is "moving again" !! SOON !

C.-Unfulfilled Prophecies Examined:

1-All details may not be crystal-clear before fulfillment
2-Several likely opinions may have to be expressed and tolerated in some cases
3-BUT.....major TRENDS and TENDENCIES are clear !
4-Prophecy tells us where the world is headed
-Indicates DIRECTION
-Indicates SEASONS, even though not DAYS & HOURS
5-This should get us "INTO THE BOOK" for ourselves !?
6-This honors God and His Word, for it shows that we believe His revelation of the future.

II.-PROPHETIC PREACHING OVERCOMES IGNORANCE:

A.-Time For Ignorance:

1-Spiritual ignorance should relate ONLY to our unsaved days in the past — NO LONGER!

2-Expected to be ignorant of spiritual truth THEN

- Acts 17:23--"For as I passed by, and beheld your devotions, I found an altar with this inscription, TO THE UNKNOWN GOD. Whom therefore ye ignorantly worship, Him declare I unto you."
- Rom. 10:2-3--"For I bear them record that they have a zeal of God, but not according to knowledge. For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and going about to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted themselves unto the righteousness of God."
- 1 Pet. 1:14--"As obedient children, not fashioning yourselves according to the former lusts in your ignorance."

3-NOW we've been brought IN to light and knowledge in Christ + ignorance should be diminishing daily!

B.-Time For Knowledge:

1-Paul warns 8 times against being IGNORANT on prophetic matters--"But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren..." (1 Th. 4:13)

2-Important for believers to KNOW what is ahead — Prophetic Truth

3-It's our privilege to know "THINGS TO COME"

- John 16:13--"Howbeit when He, the Spirit of truth, is come, He will guide you into all truth: for He shall not speak of Himself: but whatsoever He shall hear, that shall He speak: and He will shew you things to come."
- 1 John 5:13--"These things have I written unto you that believe on the Name of the Son of God; that ye may know that you have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the Name of the Son of God."
- 1 Cor. 2:12--"Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us."

4-The future is as plain as an OPEN BOOK---The Bible!

C.-Time For Confidence:

1-Desperately needed today!

2-Gives EVIDENCE to the believing soul as to the reality of God's truth

3-God gives solid & definite promises CAPABLE OF BEING CHECKED for their accuracy!!!

- Isa. 8:20
- Deut. 18:22--"When a prophet speaketh in the Name of the LORD, if the thing follow not, nor come to pass, that is the thing which the LORD hath not spoken, but the prophet hath spoken it presumptuously: thou shalt not be afraid of him."
- In fact--if the Prophet's prophecies didn't come to pass..."That prophet shall die" (De.18:20)

III.-PROPHETIC PREACHING REVEALS CHRIST:

A.-Where Revealed?:

1-In the **Scriptures**

- --Luke 24:27, 32, 45
- --1 Peter 1:10-12 (Use Overhead-OVERLAY)
- --Psalms 22, 23, and 24 (Good, Great, Chief)
- --Isa. 53

EXPLAIN

2-**Christ**--Is the subject of **HUNDREDS** of **promises** and **prophecies**

--Is found spoken of in **almost every chapter** of the Bible

B.-How Understood?:

* 1-**Scripture** must be seen **IN THE LIGHT OF CHRIST**

2-**Rev. 19:10b**--"..for the testimony of Jesus is the Spirit of prophecy."

NB 3-Without Christ----The Bible means **NOTHING**

4-**With Christ**, the Bible becomes **alive** & **relevant**

5-ILLUS--**Spurgeon** used to say: "Give me any text in the Bible and I'll preach on it, but I'll cut cross-country to Christ."

6-**NO OTHER SOURCE** for **accurate information** about God's Person and Plan

Creation and 7-**Nature reveals**--God's **POWER** (Lightning, Earthquakes Volcanic eruptions)

--But nothing of His **Person** & **Plan**

ONLY FOUND IN THE BIBLE!

IV.-PROPHETIC PREACHING BRINGS BENEFITS:

A.-Blessings Enumerated:

1-Attached to **READING** God's Word

--**Rev. 1:3**--"**Blessed** is he that **readeth**, and they that **hear** the words of this prophecy, and **keep** those things which are written therein; for the time is at hand."

2-Attached to **PREACHING** God's Word

--**1 Tim. 4:1-5** for knowledge of the "**latter times**" by the **Church**

--**1 Tim. 4:5-6**--For **self** & **hearers** - "For it is sanctified by the Word of God & prayer. If thou put the brethren in remembrance of these things, thou shalt be a good minister of Jesus Christ."

B.-Comfort Experienced:

1-In the Lord

2-In the **promises** of God

3-In the **clear knowledge** of the facts

4-**1 Thess. 4:18**--"Wherefore comfort one another with these words."

5-Thus, **real peace of mind.**

6-ILLUS--**Great Bible interpreters & preachers** have generally received **MUCH COMFORT** from the doctrine of Christ's second coming

--Hear Dr. **G. Campbell Morgan**: "To me the second coming is the perpetual light on the path which makes the **present bearable.** I never lay my head on my pillow without thinking that, **maybe before** the morning breaks, the final morning may have dawned." I never be-

gin my work without thinking that, perhaps He may **interrupt** my work and **begin His own**. This is now His word to all believing souls, til He come."

--Indeed, we are **COMFORTED**, for we wait not for death, but for **HIM**! — Not the UNDERTAKER, But the UPPERTAKER

C.-Trust Enlarged:

1-Finds God totally **trustworthy**
2-Learns to **trust God** more each day
3-**Appropriates** God's **promises**.
4-Whatever the **signs** of our Lord's coming in glory which may already be **EMBRYONICALLY PRESENT**, even before His coming for His own, there is still MUCH ROOM **TO TRUST** God
5-This **pleases God**...
...and **strengthens me**!!
6-**Rom. 4:18-25**
7-Whatever He has **predicted** for the future & **however impossible** the **fulfillment** may seem, they will--OF COURSE--be fulfilled
8-Let us **DARE** TO **BELIEVE** GOD! Let us dare to live now in the light of **what God says will yet be**!

V.-PROPHETIC PREACHING CALLS TO HOLINESS:

A.-Influences Present Decisions:

1-Examples--**1 Cor. 7:26**--"...for the present distress" / Persecution
Phs. 4:5--"The Lord is at hand" — Christ's coming again
2-Life is determined by **DECISIONS**
3-**Decisions** are determined by pressure of the **CALL OF GOD to holiness**
4-ILLUS.--Impending **bad weather** influences **our dress** for the day. **JUST SO**, impending fulfillment of eternal matters puts **temporal matters** into **focus**
5-**1 Peter 1:13**--"Wherefore, **gird** up the loins of your mind, be **sober**, and **hope** to **the end** for the grace that is to be brought unto you at the revelation of Jesus Christ:"
6-To have **hope in HIM** Who is to appear, is also to **PURIFY** OURSELVES.....thus, it

B.-Influences Present Life:

1-**Escapee** from the Great White Throne **judgment** — I have been DELIVERED! Rom. 8:1
2-Living in **expectation** of our **COMING SAVIOR**
3-**Purifying** influence:
--**1 John 3:3**--"And every man that hath this hope in him, **purifieth himself**, even as He is pure"
--**2 Peter 3:11-12**--"Seeing then that all these things shall be disolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all **holy** conversation and godlines, looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God"
4-Frankly, if a **claimed belief** in the Lord's return does not produce **HOLINESS OF LIFE**, the profession is at once **SUSPECT** as to its **depth** or its **genuineness**.

VI.-PROPHETIC PREACHING CONSTITUTES A COMMAND:

A.-Accountability Is Coming:

1-Expect to have a confrontation at the BEMA

2-2 Cor. 5:10-11--"For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad. Knowing therefore the terror of the Lord, we persuade men.."

3-Want more than WOOD, HAY and STUBBLE

4-1 Cor. 3:12-13--"Now if any man build upon this foundation gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, stuffble; every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is."

B.-Evangelize NOW!: Share the Good News!

1-Scriptures:

--Rom. 11:26--"...until the fulness of the Gentiles be come in."

--Acts 15:14--"...take out a people for His Name"

--Acts 15:16--"...After this..." TOO LATE !!

2-Believers are to WORK -For the night is coming
-For the Lord
-At home and abroad

3-Thus, the child of God who really loves CHRIST'S APPEARING will be active in reaching the lost, the least and the last for Jesus.

4-Surely no real believer can do less than have as his objective the evangelization of the world, so that men of every tribe & people & nation may be won to Christ.

C.-Be Saved NOW!:

1-Thunder of the message of God to the unconverted

2-Amos 4:12--"Prepare to meet thy God"

3-Warning that NOW IS THE TIME !

4-Poem:

"Hasten, sinner to be wise.
Wait not for tomorrow's sun.
Wisdom if thou despise,
Harder is it to be won."

5-Impenitent sinners need Christ NOW!

6-SIGNS OF HIS COMING Multiply---See them in the next several messages in series

7-Why not be saved TODAY ??

CONCLUSION:

A.-Resume'---Reasons "WHY WE PREACH PROPHECY":

1-Gives us the RIGHT PERSPECTIVE on life

2-Provides COMFORT & PEACE for believer's daily life

3-Inspires consecration to the Lord & to His work

4-We can well remind ourselves of the statement of

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the late Dr R.A. Torrey that "...the christian should live as though the Lord were returning today, and plan as though he knew the Lord would not return during his lifetime."

5-How do we---YOU & I---measure up to that kind of standard??

B.-Application:

1-Torrey's Testimony--"The fourth great epoch in my life, was when I got hold of the truth and the truth got hold of me of a PERSONAL, VISIBLE, GLORIOUS, IMMINENT RETURN of our Lord. It lifted me above the world and its ambitions. What did I care whether I was rich or poor; what did I care whether I had honor or contempt; what did I care whether I was well-fed or hungry? The LORD JESUS IS COMING BACK AGAIN!

"I had been very ambitious, but when the truth got hold of me, I had but one ambition, and that was to please my Lord, Who might come at any time, and to please Him at any cost."

2-HAVE YOU gotten ahold of "the coming of the Lord"???

3-Has the return of the Lord GOTTEN AHOLD OF YOU ??

4-Do you...

LOVE HIS APPEARING?

5-ILLUS-

It is told that QUEEN VICTORIA once went to hear a leading London preacher speak on the Second Coming of Christ. When the preacher greeted the Queen upon her departure through the door, he bowed to her and shook her hand, and asked her if she believed in her heart the truth he had been expounding. Victoria's response was that she surely did. Moreover, she said, "I WISH JESUS CHRIST WOULD RETURN TO THE EARTH IN MY LIFETIME SO THAT I MIGHT LAY THE CROWN OF ENGLAND AT HIS FEET."

6-Have you--Given Him your heart?
--Given Him your LIFE? = BODY!
--Given Him your dearest possessions?
--Given Him your FULL SERVICE?

-Will you do this NOW? TODAY? HERE?

Westbrae--8/9/64--#410--"Work For The Night Is Coming"
7/7/68--#132--"Is It The Crowning Day?"
4/22/73--#138--"Must I Go Empty-Handed?"

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Faith Bible Ch. - Hedgesville, WV. - 3/4/95
Taupo Bible Ch, N.Z. - 3/10/96
7/17/99 - Dunedin Bible Conf.
9/10/2000 - SS of G. G. Ch.