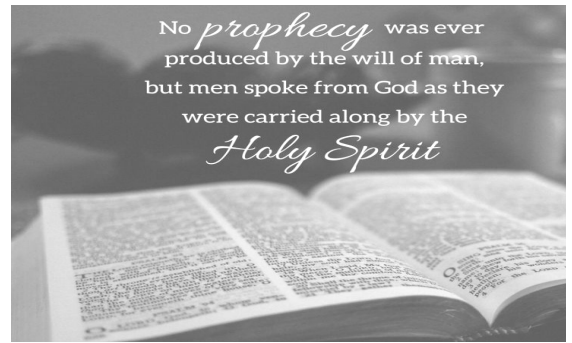


A Study of The Epistle of 2nd Peter
Theme: “Grow in Grace and Knowledge”

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Lesson: 7 Chapter 1:19-21 Date: 9-12-21



BIBLE TEXT

(2 Peter 1:19-21)

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

STUDY NOTES

(19) And we have something more sure, the prophetic word, to which you will do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts,

(Ps 119:105; Mal 4:2; Lk 1:78; Jn 5:35; 2 Cor 4:6; Rev 2:28; 22:16)

(20) knowing this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture comes from someone's own interpretation.

(Lk 4:21; 22:37; Jn 9:28-37; 10:35; Acts 8:32-35; Rom 10:11; Gal 3:8; 1 Tim 4:13; Jas 2:8)

NOTE:

“Scripture” = script of words written down. Jesus had the same Old Testament that we have and accepted Genesis to Malachi as the very recorded and inspired Word of God.

“Inerrancy” = without error. “Inspiration” = breathed in by God

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

(Dt. 18:18-22; 2 Sam 23:2; Lk 1:70; Acts 1:16; 3:18; 28:25; 2 Tim 3:14-17)

LUTHER’S WORKS – VOLUME 30

19. *And we have a **sure prophetic Word**. You will do well to pay attention to this as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and **the morning star rises** in your hearts.*

Here St. Peter goes to the core of the matter and wants to say: The whole purpose of my preaching is to make your conscience sure and to give your heart a firm footing from which it should not permit itself to be torn, in order that both you and I may be certain that we have **God’s Word**. **For the Gospel** is a serious business. It must be grasped and retained in all purity, without any addition or false doctrine. For this reason St. Peter now begins to write against human doctrines...

Thus Peter now says: We have a prophetic Word that is sure in itself. Just see to it that it is sure for you. “You will do well to pay attention to this.” It is as if he were saying: It will be necessary for you to hold fast to it. For **the Gospel** does the very thing that happens when one is caught in a house in

the middle of the night when it is pitch-dark. Then it would be necessary to provide a light until daybreak, so that he could see. Thus **the Gospel** is really in the midst of night and darkness. For all human reason is sheer error and blindness. Thus the world, too, is nothing else than a realm of darkness. In this darkness **God** has now ignited a light, namely, **the Gospel**. In this light we can see and walk as long as we dwell on earth, until **the dawn comes** and the day breaks.

...It is **God's Word, the Gospel**, that we have been redeemed from death, sin, and hell through **Christ**. He who hears this has lighted the light and the lamp in our hearts to enable us to see. **The Gospel** illumines us and teaches what we should know. But where it is missing, we rush in and want to find the road to heaven with a self-invented way of life and self-invented works. Concerning this you cannot judge and see by means of your light that it is darkness. Consequently, since they do not want to have or accept the light, they must remain in darkness and blindness; for **the light** teaches us everything we should know and everything that is necessary for our salvation. This the world does not recognize by means of its wisdom and reason. And we must have **the light** and cling to it until **the Last Day**. Then we shall no longer need **the Word**, just as artificial light is extinguished when the day dawns.

20. *First of all you must understand this, that no prophecy of **Scripture** is a matter of one's own interpretation,*

21. *because no prophecy ever came by the impulse of man, but men moved by **the Holy Spirit** spoke from God.*

Here St. Peter attacks false doctrine. Since you know that we have **God's Word**, he says, cling to this knowledge, and do not be misled by other false teachers, even though they come with the allegation that they, too, have **the Holy Spirit**. For "first of all you must understand this"—he will state the rest later—"that no **prophecy of Scripture** is a matter of one's own interpretation." Be governed by this, and do not think that you can interpret **Scripture** with your own reason and wisdom.

... The **Holy Spirit Himself** must expound Scripture. Otherwise it must remain unexpounded. Now if anyone of the saintly fathers can show that his interpretation is based on **Scripture**, and if **Scripture** proves that this is the way it should be interpreted, then the interpretation is right. If this is not the case, I must not believe him.

... But we can prove that **Christ and faith are the Rock**, as St. Paul declares. This explanation is correct, for we are sure that it has not been devised by man but has been drawn from **God's Word**. Now what is written and proclaimed in the prophets, says Peter, has not been invented or devised by man; but the pious and holy men have said it as they were moved by **the Holy Spirit**.

LIFE APPLICATION

1. If Scripture is from men who spoke from God, as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit, then why is it absolutely essential to hold onto the verbal inspiration of the Bible as the Word of God?
2. Since we have the prophetic word, how do we daily pay attention to it, as to a lamp shining in a dark place?
3. This happens now through Word and Sacrament, and will appear in Person when Jesus returns:
"Until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts!"