

Words of Truth

For We Have Not Followed Cunningly Devised Fables

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The title of our study comes from this context: “*Simon Peter, a servant and an apostle of Jesus Christ, to them that have obtained like precious faith with us through the righteousness of God and our Saviour Jesus Christ: Grace and peace be multiplied unto you through the knowledge of God, and of Jesus our Lord, According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue: Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust. And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge; And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness; And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity. For if these things be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. But he that lacketh these things is blind, and cannot see afar off, and hath forgotten that he was purged from his old sins. Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall: For so an entrance shall be ministered unto you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Wherefore I will not be negligent to put you always in remembrance of these things, though ye know them, and be established in the present truth. Yea, I think it meet, as long as I am in this tabernacle, to stir you up by putting you in remembrance; Knowing that shortly I must put off this my tabernacle, even as our Lord Jesus Christ hath shewed me. Moreover I will endeavour that ye may be able after my decease to have these things always in remembrance. For we have not followed cunningly devised fables, when we made known unto you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of his majesty. For he received from God the Father honour and glory, when there came such a voice to him from the excellent glory, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. And this voice which came from heaven we heard, when we were with him in the holy mount. We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts: Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation. For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost”* (II Peter 1:1-21).

The text above is a wonderful study. The context continues if you read on through the rest of the book too. What we are going to consider is Peter’s statement this article is titled

after. Many people for many generations have followed false myths that have been brought about in a clever way. Paul had to have Timothy go to Ephesus to, in part, teach the saints there not to follow fables (I Timothy 1:1-7). Timothy was expected to remind the saints to refuse such things (I Timothy 4:6-7). Titus was taught to attempt to prevent the saints from following fables too (Titus 1:1-14). Was/is teaching against following such cunningly devised fables enough to prevent people from falling for them? Sadly, even the best teaching cannot prevent people from being carried away by such deceptive teachers.

Consider what Paul said to Timothy in his second letter to Timothy: "*I charge thee therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom; Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine. For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables. But watch thou in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, make full proof of thy ministry*" (II Timothy 4:1-5). The solution comes down to each disciple of our Lord being as convinced, within themselves, as Peter was in the text we began our study with.

You Have To Know

As we often have studied, Peter failed multiple times in his life (Matthew 16:21-23, Matthew 26:26-75, and Galatians 2:11-17). Peter also didn't "get it" many times. However, when he did finally "get it", he was sure. He was sure enough to stand, teach, and suffer for the message of Christ (Acts 3:1-5:42). His actions showed his conviction (James 2:14-26). Peter preached that those who obey the Lord need to, "*know assuredly, that God hath made that same Jesus, whom ye have crucified, both Lord and Christ*" (Acts 2:36).

Jesus taught those following Him that they [we] shall know the truth (John 8:31-32). This doesn't just mean "study more". People can learn and learn without ever coming to know the truth (II Timothy 3:7). This means to test and hold fast to what is proven to be the truth once you know it (I Thessalonians 5:21). Have you done that? Have you tested and come to know what you believe with all certainty. If so, you'll be that one that will stand faithful to the end.

Conclusion

Like Peter, Paul suffered for the faith (II Timothy 3:10-12). He did not waver because he knew the truth. He wasn't following a mythical character. Consider this statement by him and examine your faith in light of it: "*For the which cause I also suffer these things: nevertheless I am not ashamed: for I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day*" (II Timothy 1:12).