

BOOK OF 2 PETER
MATURING IN CHRIST
WHY BELIEVERS SHOULD LISTEN TO PETER
2 PETER 1:16-21

Introduction

I was ordained into the ministry June 2, 1985. Before the ordination service I met with an "ordination council" that was made up of three ordained pastors.

These men who had the opportunity to both question me on my beliefs as well as exhort me and share words of encouragement with me. After the question and answer time was over the men took a vote and recommended me for ordination.

One question that I was asked stands out in my mind. A fellow pastor asked me *"if we take this vote and you are not recommended for ordination what will you do?"* I responded by stating that regardless of their decision I was going to continue to preach the Gospel because Jesus called me to do so.

Considering the fact that I am your pastor... you know how the vote turned out. If you go into my study you will see hanging on the wall a "Certificate of Ordination."

That paper is a constant reminder to me that Bible Baptist Church in Brunswick, GA, as well as a small group of ordained ministers had confidence in me as a minister of the Gospel.

Even more special to me is the fact that Jesus Christ personally called me and commissioned me to preach His Word.

Unfortunately there are many people today filling pulpits, Pastoring Churches and running religious organizations who were never called by the LORD. Sadly, in many cases, they don't really even know Him!

There is no shortage of heresy being propagated in our day. You do not have to look very far to find a false prophet. But this is not a new phenomenon. Peter dealt with this in his day.

In the closing verses of chapter one and the entirety of chapter 2 Peter defends the authenticity of the ministry that was given him by Christ.

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And we will see that he also calls out the actions of false prophets.

As we close out this chapter, let's answer this question:
Why should believers listen to the Apostle Peter in these things we've seen?

We only need to look at Peters credentials that he details here! Credentials are defined as *"an achievement, personal quality, or aspect of a person's background, used to indicate that they are qualified for something"*.

If there was ever a man qualified to share the good news of Jesus it was Simon Peter. He was a man who lived an amazing life and knew through first hand experience that Jesus really was Who He said He was.

Yes, Peter had some moments of failure, but he recovered and was restored. There is an amazing transformation that took place after Peter saw the resurrected Christ. In fact if you compare his life before and after the resurrection you see two different men.

Peter spent the remainder of his life sharing the message of Jesus. In fact he eventually died for the cause of Christ.

As we look at his experience and qualifications we will see a stark contrast to the false prophets who are described in chapter 2.

So look with me to vs 16-21 as Peter answers the question of why anyone should listen to him at all?

I. WE SEE HIS MINISTRY!

These days anyone can start a so called *"ministry"*. There are literally hundreds of thousands of ministries here in America.

But just because an organization may be called a ministry or a Church that doesn't mean that the LORD is in it! In fact many "ministries" that wear the name "Christian" are anything but that!

But, this was not the case with Peter.

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When we examine his ministry we see that:

A. His Was An Appointed Ministry!

Peter was called personally by Jesus and He was commissioned by Him. Looking back on his life we see that:

1. He Was Appointed To Evangelize!

Matthew 4:19—“And he saith unto them, Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.”

Up until that point in his life Peter spent his days attempting to catch fish. When he met Jesus everything changed. From that day forward he was prepared to reach lost men and women for Jesus. Not only was he appointed to evangelize...

2. He Was Appointed To Encourage!

Luke 22:32—“But I have prayed for thee, that thy faith fail not: and when thou art converted, strengthen thy brethren.”

Jesus told Peter that Satan desired to have him so that he could *"sift him as wheat"*. He also revealed that Peter would deny Him 3 times before the rooster crowed. But Jesus also told him that He had prayed for him.

Furthermore, Jesus told Peter that when he was restored it was his duty to strengthen the rest of the disciples. If you notice, after the resurrection Peter was the apparent leader of the Apostles. Along with evangelism and encouragement, we see that:

3. He Was Appointed To Edify!

Three times in John 21:15-17 Jesus told Peter to feed His sheep and lambs.

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Jesus commissioned Peter to deliver His message not only to the lost, but to teach, train and edify those who were *"in the fold"*.

This message that we have been looking at here in 2 Peter is a result of Peter's obedience to his call in to the ministry that had been appointed unto him.

So, Peter's ministry was an Appointed Ministry...

B. His Was An Authentic Ministry! (vs16-18)

The false teachers that will be described in chapter 2 were skillful in concocting these *"cunningly devised fables"*.

They would create these myths and tales to get people to follow them. Their motivation was not spreading the Gospel, but making a name for themselves. Their goal was to amass wealth, power and prestige much like the false prophets in our day.

But Peter's ministry was authentic. He declares that he was an *"eyewitness of Christ's majesty"*.

Think for a moment of all that Peter had seen with his own eyes:

He saw the many miracles that Jesus performed during His earthly ministry.

He heard the powerful teaching of Jesus.

As the soldiers came to apprehend Jesus, Peter is the one who cut off Malchus' ear. He watched as Jesus picked it up and put it back on his head.

Peter was one of the Apostles who saw the empty tomb. Even greater than that, he was a first hand witness of the resurrected Christ.

After this, Peter watched as Jesus ascended to Heaven.

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These are all amazing things that prove the authenticity of Peter's ministry. But here he specifically refers to an event that very few were able to witness.

He is talking about the **Transfiguration of Jesus**. In Matthew 17, Peter saw Jesus glorified on what he describes as "*That Holy Mount*".

Jesus was transfigured and Peter saw Him in his power and glory. Matthew 17:2 says that Jesus "*was transfigured before them: and his face did shine as the sun, and his raiment was white as the light.*"

As this occurred Moses and Elijah appeared with Him. When Peter saw this he did not want to leave. He desired to build three tabernacles.... one for Jesus, one for Moses and one for Elijah.

As he declared his desire something even more amazing happened. Peter heard the voice of the Father from Heaven saying, "*This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased; hear ye him.*"

Look back to - **v16b**—"*....we made known unto you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of his majesty...*"

Here Peter references the fact that the Transfiguration was just a preview of the glory that will be revealed at Christ's Second Coming. Peter wanted his readers to know that he was **not** relaying second hand information. He was telling them about things he had heard with his own ears and seen with his own eyes!

He was an eyewitness!

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Peter's Ministry was *an appointed ministry...by Jesus*, It was *an authentic ministry* and could be trusted and if you look at his ministry you will see that it was:

C. His Was An Amazing Ministry!

By the time Peter penned his first and second epistles he had already been very effective as a Minister of the Gospel.

At Pentecost he preached and over 3,000 people were saved. He along with John were used of God to heal the lame man at the beautiful gate.

He had been brought before the religious and governmental authorities and commanded to cease preaching in the name of Jesus.

In the face of persecution and oppression he boldly proclaimed ..."*We ought to obey God rather than men*". (Acts 5:29)

In Acts chapter 12 Peter was seized and imprisoned and Herod intended to cut off his head.

But the church prayed intently for him and he was delivered from his bonds.

From the time he began to follow Jesus, Peter was a part of some amazing things and he faithfully carried out the ministry that Jesus had given him.

The awe inspiring things that Peter had been a part of were only possible because of Jesus. And that was the heart of his ministry, but also the heart of his message.

II. WE SEE HIS MESSAGE!

Peter was not out promoting himself or his ministry. If you examine any ministry today you will quickly see where the focus is. The false prophets in the 21st century put the focus on themselves. They are constantly trying to promote their ministry. One well known T.V preacher travels the country giving speeches that he calls sermons. But in order to hear him in person you have to purchase a ticket to the "*event*".

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- A. Consider The Soundness Of His Message. (vs 19a)**
"We have also a more sure word of prophecy..."
Though Peter had **experienced** these amazing things and he had seen things that very few had seen, he says **we have something more certain** than any **experience** of man.
We have the Word of God!

Peter ranked scripture over experience! We don't see this in those false prophets that are so prevalent in our day. They use very little scripture (if any). And when they do quote the Word of God it is usually out of context! But Peter says **the Scriptures are more reliable than the first hand experiences of the apostles themselves!**

Be very cautious when you hear someone say *"I feel led to say such and such"*. Or *"the Lord is telling me to do this or that"*.

If what they are saying cannot be backed up by scriptures... then the Lord isn't telling them a thing!

2 Timothy 3:16 – "All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:"

Consider the context of that verse.... Paul was telling Timothy about the false prophets in their day. Listen to what he said in the previous verses.

2 Timothy 3:13– "But evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived."

This name it and claim it... blab it and grab it prosperity crowd will one day answer for the heresy that they are spreading. Those who water down the Word and ignore Biblical doctrine in order to fill their churches and pad their bank accounts will pay dearly!

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These motivational speakers who never preach that Jesus saves and refuse to preach the whole counsel of the Bible are not called of God! They are wolves in sheep's clothing!

That was not the case for Peter. He was a man who preached a sound message!

- B. Consider The Significance Of The Message! (vs 19b)**
"...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:"

Not only do we need to hear Peter's message, we need to heed it!

Remember the context, Peter is about to give a long discourse concerning false teachers. Here he warns them that because they would encounter false teachers, they must pay careful attention to Scripture.

This sure word of prophecy was like a *"A light that shineth in a dark place"*. This world is filled with darkness. But the Word of God shines as a light in the midst of this dark world!
Psalms 119:105 - "Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path."

Everything we need to know is found in the Scriptures!
We must search the Scriptures and then obey the Scriptures!

Phillip Brooks likened the Bible to a telescope. If a man looks **through his telescope** he sees worlds beyond; but if he looks **at his telescope**, he does not see anything but that. The Bible is a thing **to be looked through** to see that which is beyond; but **most people only look at it** and so they see only a dead letter.

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If we will spend time in God's Words it will change our lives!

There is much deception in our day. False prophets abound.
The only way you will know the difference between the truth
and a lie is to STUDY THE TRUTH!

When you listen to a man deliver a sermon, it doesn't take long
to learn where it came from. If he expounds the Scriptures the
message comes from God, for the Bible was breathed by Him!

The Soundness...The Significance...

- C. **Consider The Source Of The Message! (vs 20-21)**
Scripture is not of human origin. The Bible is not the product of
human effort. Scripture is not the product of mere human
interpretation of historical events.

The Scriptures were penned by about 40 holy men of God. But
they did not write their own thoughts... they were moved by the
Holy Spirit.

In fact, the prophets sometimes wrote things they could not
fully understand. But they were faithful to write what God
revealed to them. Peter says that they were "*Moved by the Holy
Ghost*". The Spirit guided their thoughts and writings. The
Bible is **not** God's Word according to Moses, or Paul, or Peter,
or John... **the Bible is simply God's Word!**

Conclusion

Let me encourage you to continuously "*search the scriptures*". Don't trust me
or any other mortal man to spoon feed you. Get in God's Word and learn it,
apply it and allow God to change you through it!

Why listen to Peter? Because this ain't just Peter writing here. Yes, he was
the instrument the Holy Spirit used, but this is God's Word we are talking
about! His ministry and message both back up that he was God's man!