BURN OUR HEARTS · STUDY GUIDE

The Most Important Lesson I Could Ever Teach

On the sermon **"The Most Important Lesson I Could Ever Teach"** by **Pastor Francis Chan**, Cornerstone Community Church · November 29, 2009 · 2 Peter 1:12-21

2 PETER 1:12-21 (ESV)

(vv. 12-18 in your Bible) [19]And we have the prophetic word more fully confirmed, 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.

MAIN IDEA

"There ought to be a respect for God's word where we just tremble at it."

MAJOR POINTS in the order preached

1. **Peter's last priority.** (vv. 12-15; John 21:18-19)
   - a **Follow anyway.** *"I'm worth it. Hold on to the end."*
   - b **Set them up.** *"Independently dependent on God."*
   - c **Not about the preacher.** *"It's got to be about this book."*
2. **More sure than the mountain.** (vv. 16-19)
   - a **Eyewitnesses.** *"I know what I saw. I know what I heard."*
   - b **Something more sure.** *"I have something even greater than that, something more sure, and that's this book."*
   - c **A lamp.** *"Pay attention to it like a lamp in a dark place where it's the only light you got."*
3. **Carried along by the Spirit.** (vv. 20-21) *"This is not about interpretation. … The problem we have is it's an issue of respect."*
4. **Tremble at His word.** (Isaiah 66:2) *"Do I tremble at it and really take it literally as the words of God to where my life is going to change because of it?"*

KEY INSIGHTS our observations, not from the sermon

- **Until the day dawns.** A lamp is for the night. Verse 19 looks ahead to dawn and "the morning star," and Jesus is "the bright morning star" (Revelation 22:16).
- **Prophets and apostles.** Peter sets his eyewitness testimony (v. 16) beside "the prophetic word" (v. 19). Both come from God (v. 21).

DIGGING DEEPER God's word in the big story of Scripture

- **Creation.** "And God said, 'Let there be light,' and there was light" (Genesis 1:3). God's word makes worlds.
- **Fall.** The first temptation began by doubting His word: "Did God actually say …?" (Genesis 3:1).
- **Promise.** At Sinai "all the people in the camp trembled" (Exodus 19:16), and God promised a Prophet like Moses: "it is to him you shall listen" (Deuteronomy 18:15).
- **Fulfillment.** "The Word became flesh" (John 1:14). On the mountain the Father said, "listen to him" (Matthew 17:5), and "in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son" (Hebrews 1:2).
- **New creation.** "The word of our God will stand forever" (Isaiah 40:8). In the city to come, "its lamp is the Lamb" (Revelation 21:23).

DISCUSS

1. Pastor Chan says time alone with God's Word is "the only time when I can't lie." Why does honest, private reading guard us against pride?
2. Peter saw Jesus transfigured, yet he calls the prophetic word "more fully confirmed" (v. 19). Why might Scripture be surer than an experience?
3. When have you said "that's just your interpretation" to avoid what a passage plainly says?
4. Do you need someone to "give you 10 reasons" before you obey? What would trembling at His word look like for you this week?

THIS WEEK

Read 2 Peter 1 alone each day. Before you start, pray, "Show me the truth even if I don't like it." Then do one thing the text says, without waiting for someone to talk you into it.

PRAYER

Father, thank You for a word more sure than any experience. Forgive us for asking for reasons before we obey. Make us humble and contrite in spirit, people who tremble at Your word, until the Morning Star rises in our hearts. In Jesus' name, amen.

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