

VISION

20/20

HIS VISION.

OUR FOCUS.

2 Pet. 1:16-21

FOCUS

2 Pet. 1:16 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.

17 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.

18 And this voice which came from heaven we heard, when we were with him in the holy mount.

19 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:

20 Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation.

21 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.

Our theme for 2020:

VISION 20/20
HIS VISION. OUR FOCUS.

In order for us to have a clear vision of our future paths, we must be clear in our understanding of our present standing with the Lord. We begin with “Faith’s Convictions:”

I. FAITH’S CONVICTIONS, 1:1-21

A. As to the walk with God, 1:1-15

1. The secret of commencing well, 1:1-4
2. The secret of continuing well, 1:5-9
3. The secret of concluding well, 1:10-15

As we focus upon God's vision for our learning, and living, we move from "the walk with God" to the second main point of the passage which is "the Word of God." To have a clear vision to see the path God's desires for us to walk, we must have the light of God's word to illuminate the path:

Psa. 119:105 **Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path. ...**

130 **The entrance of thy words giveth light;** it giveth understanding unto the simple.

❖ Walking without the light of God's Word indicates a person's fallacy of following his own way.

Jer. 10:23 O LORD, I know that the way of man *is* not in himself: **it is not in man that walketh to direct his steps.**

Prov. 28:26 **He that trusteth in his own heart is a fool:** but **whoso walketh wisely**, he shall be delivered.

- ❖ This morning, we will fix our focus upon the Lord's vision for us regarding His Word.

B. As to the word of God, 1:16-21

1. Its integrity, 1:16a "For we have not followed cunningly devised fables..."

- ❖ A growing Christian knows the difference in trusting self over trusting the Word of God.

Original Word: ἑξακολουθέω

Transliteration: exakoloutheó

Usage: I **follow** after, imitate.

eksakolouthéō – **properly, completely follow (literally, "wholly out from")**, i.e. closely imitating (emulating) someone as a model or leader.

<https://biblehub.com/greek/1811.htm>

Original Word: σοφίζω

Transliteration: sophizó

Definition: to make wise

Usage: I make wise, instruct; pass: I am skillfully devised.

<https://biblehub.com/greek/4679.htm>

Eph. 6:11 Put on the whole armour of God, that **ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.**

2 Cor. 2:7 So that contrariwise ye *ought* rather to forgive *him*, and comfort *him*, lest perhaps such a one should be **swallowed up with overmuch sorrow**.

8 Wherefore I beseech you that ye would **confirm your love toward him**.

9 For to this end also did I write, that I might know the proof of you, whether ye be obedient in all things.

10 **To whom ye forgive any thing, I forgive also**: for if I forgave any thing, to whom I forgave *it*, **for your sakes forgave I it in the person of Christ**;

11 **Lest Satan should get an advantage of us: for we are not ignorant of his devices**.

Original Word: μῦθος

Transliteration: muthos

Definition: a speech, story, a fable

Usage: an idle tale, **fable**, fanciful story.

mýthos – **a myth; a false account, yet posing to be the truth**;

a *fabrication* (fable) which subverts (replaces) what is actually true.

<https://biblehub.com/greek/3454.htm>

- ❖ The presentation of a powerful contradistinction.
- ❖ True believers focus upon God's Word, not man's fables.

Rom. 3:4 "...**yea, let God be true, but every man a liar...**"

Prov. 3:5 Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding.

6 In all thy ways acknowledge him, and **he shall direct thy paths.**

2. Its instruction, 1:16b-18

- a. The heavenly vision, 1:16b "...when we made known unto you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of his majesty."

❖ Peter qualifies his statement by reiterating his role as an eyewitness to the events on the Mount of Transfiguration:

b. The heraldic voice, 1:17-18

2 Pet. 1:17 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.**

18 And this voice which came from heaven we heard, **when we were with him in the holy mount.**

❖ Imagine the scene viewed by the apostles on the mount:

Luke 9:28 And it came to pass about an eight days after these sayings, he took **Peter** and John and James, and went up into a mountain to pray.

29 And **as he prayed, the fashion of his countenance was altered, and his raiment was white and glistering.**

30 And, behold, there talked with him two men, which were **Moses and Elias:**

31 **Who appeared in glory**, and spake of his decease which he should accomplish at Jerusalem.

32 But **Peter** and they that were with him were heavy with sleep: and when they were awake, **they saw his glory, and the two men that stood with him.**

33 And it came to pass, as they departed from him, **Peter said unto Jesus, Master, it is good for us to be here: and let us make three tabernacles; one for thee, and one for Moses, and one for Elias: not knowing what he said.**

- ❖ The Holy Spirit did not move the Apostle Peter to mention the part about the three tabernacles – only about the glory and power witnessed at that moment.

3. Its incomparability, 1:19a “We have also a **more sure word of prophecy...**”

- ❖ The view on the mount of the Transfiguration of Christ was phenomenal!
- ❖ The testimony of an eyewitness was amazing!
- ❖ But compared to the Word of God, an eyewitness account is miniscule.

“We have also a **more sure word of prophecy...**”

Original Word: βέβαιος

Transliteration: bebaios

Usage: firm, steadfast, enduring, **sure**, certain.

bébaios (an adjective, derived from *bainō*, "to walk where it is solid") – properly, solid (sure) enough to walk on; hence, *firm, unshakable; (figuratively) absolutely dependable, giving guaranteed support (security, surety).*

<https://biblehub.com/greek/949.htm>

Heb. 6:17 Wherein **God, willing more abundantly to shew unto the heirs of promise the immutability of his counsel**, confirmed *it* by an oath:

18 That by two **immutable** things, **in which *it was impossible for God to lie***, we might have a **strong consolation**, who have fled for refuge to lay hold upon the hope set before us:

19 **Which *hope* we have as an anchor of the soul, both **sure and steadfast**...**"

4. Its illumination, 1:19b “...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:”

- ❖ Since the Word of God is “more sure” than an eyewitness account, a believer is admonished to beware to “take heed” to its working within one’s heart.

Original Word: προσέχω

Transliteration: prosechó

Usage: (a) I attend to, pay attention to, (b) I beware, am cautious, (c) I join, devote myself to.

proséxō — properly, have towards, i.e. to give full attention; to set a course and keep to it.

<https://biblehub.com/greek/4337.htm>

Luke 21:34 And **take heed to yourselves**, lest at any time **your hearts be overcharged** with surfeiting, and drunkenness, and **cares of this life**, and so that day come upon you unawares.

SUR'FEITING, *noun* The act of feeding to excess; gluttony. Luke 21:34.
<http://webstersdictionary1828.com/Dictionary/surfeiting>

1 Tim. 4:13 Till I come, **give attendance** to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine.

Heb. 2:1 Therefore **we ought to give the more earnest heed** to the things which we have heard, lest at any time we should let *them* slip.

❖ Let the Word of God's illuminating effect do its work!

"...as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts:"

❖ As the light of God's Word penetrates and reveals the darkness within, grasp the reality of its work, and repent.

Psa. 119:105 **Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path. ...**

130 **The entrance of thy words giveth light;** it giveth understanding unto the simple.

5. Its inspiration, 1:20-21

2 Pet. 1:20 Knowing this first, that **no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation.**

21 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.**

❖ This eliminates the excuse – “You have your interpretation, and I have mine.”

Original Word: ἐπίλυσις

Transliteration: epilusis

Usage: solution, explanation, interpretation; release.

epílysis – properly, unloosing (unpacking) in an *apt (appropriate)* manner, i.e. that builds on sound hermeneutical principles. <https://biblehub.com/greek/1955.htm>

❖ Verse 21 reiterates that inspiration of the Scriptures is a combination of the Holy Spirit's control of "holy men of God."

Original Word: φέρω

Transliteration: pheró

Usage: I carry, bear, bring; I conduct, lead; perhaps: I make publicly known.

phérō – properly, to bear, carry (bring) along, especially temporarily or to a definite (prescribed) conclusion (defined by the individual context).

<https://biblehub.com/greek/5342.htm>

Acts 27:14 But not long after there arose against it a tempestuous wind, called Euroclydon.

15 And when the ship was caught, and could not bear up into the wind, we let *her* **drive**. ...

17 Which when they had taken up, they used helps, undergirding the ship; and, fearing lest they should fall into the quicksands, strake sail, and so were **driven**.

Conclusion

❖ Any vision for the present or future is dependent upon our knowledge and obedience to the Word of God.

Jas. 1:21 Wherefore lay apart all filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness, and **receive with meekness the engrafted word, which is able to save your souls.**

22 But **be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves.**

23 For if any be a hearer of the word, and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass:

24 For he beholdeth himself, and goeth his way, and straightway forgetteth what manner of man he was.

25 But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth *therein*, he being not a forgetful hearer, but **a doer of the work**, this man shall be blessed in his deed.

26 **If any man among you seem to be religious**, and bridleth not his tongue, but **deceiveth his own heart, this man's religion is vain.**

27 Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, **To visit** the fatherless and widows in their affliction, *and* **to keep himself unspotted from the world.**