

Victoria Fellowship Church

International & Interdenominational

Bible Study Worksheet – July 5, 2020

Theme: The Certainty of God's Word

Topic: The Reliability of God's Word

Main Text: 2 Peter 1:16 - 21

Key verse: 2 Peter 1: 21 *“For prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit.”* (NKJV)

INTRODUCTION: Have you ever heard someone undermine the reliability of the Bible simply based on the differences in the accounts of Jesus' ministry in Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John? If not that, you may have found yourself unable to logically answer some questions about God, salvation or even the Bible. Believers at the time Apostle Peter wrote this short epistle were facing serious questions about some aspects of their faith, just as we face today. These days, advancements in science are pushing the uncertainties in an already uncertain world to unprecedented heights. And without a firm anchor, believers can easily succumb to doubt. The inerrant written word of God provides us that anchor. But for it to do so, we must believe firmly in its reliability. And because, as believers, we have staked our lives on the written word of God, we need to be fully assured of its trustworthiness. Something is reliable when it is consistent, dependable, trustworthy, unailing.

1. **(a) What are some truths in Scripture which modern day sceptics are using to cast doubt on the authenticity of Scripture? (b) What can possibly happen if people do not believe that the word of God, as contained in the Bible is reliable?**

One of the questions with which Scoffers in Apostle Peter's days challenged the truth of Scripture had to do with Jesus' second coming. They argued that since decades have passed and that coming has not happened, then it could not be true. So, Apostle Peter sets out to address this and other similar questions by proving the reliability of the written word of God. The first point Apostle Peter makes is the reliability of the New Testament.

2. **(a) Identify the words and phrases used to point out the reliability of the New Testament in 2 Peter 1:16-19. (b) How do those words or phrases help strengthen your reliance on the authenticity of the New Testament writings? (c) What other evidence can you personally use to support your confidence in the reliability of the New Testament? E.g. John 9:9-11, 25**

In 1 Corinthians 15:6, Apostle Paul stated that many of the over 500 people who saw the risen Christ were still alive at the time of his writing his first letter to the Corinthians! The gospel of Luke was also based on accounts from eyewitnesses (Luke 1:1-2). So, the New Testament is reliable because it is the account of eyewitnesses. Across the world, the legal systems give serious weight to eyewitness accounts. Apart from being eyewitness accounts, Apostle Peter gave this defense of the reliability of the New Testament as part of his last words (2 Peter 1:12-14). And again, the global legal systems give a lot of weight to a person's last words. Finally, Apostle Peter points out that the New Testament was the fulfillment of the Old Testament (2 Peter 1:19). It was important that believers know the authenticity of what they have received. So, the second point Apostle Peter makes is the reliability of Scriptures (the Old and New Testaments), which emanated from the Holy Spirit.

3. **(a) How does the New Testament affirm the truth of the Old Testament writings? See 2 Peter 1:19-21; Proverbs 30:5 (b) What relationship does the Bible establish between the Old and New Testaments? E.g. 1 Peter 1:11; 2 Peter 2:19, 21; 2 Timothy 3:16 (c) What should be the evidence in our lives that we trust every part of the written word of God as contained in the Bible? See 2 Peter 1:19a**

Prayer: *God we thank You because every word of Yours is tried and purified and reliable. Help us to trust every line of Your word with our lives, in Jesus name, Amen.*