

2 Peter 1:16-21 ¹⁶ We did not follow cleverly invented stories when we told you about the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses of his majesty. ¹⁷ For he received honor and glory from God the Father when the voice came to him from the Majestic Glory, saying, “This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased.” ¹⁸ We ourselves heard this voice that came from heaven when we were with him on the sacred mountain. ¹⁹ And we have the word of the prophets made more certain, and you will do well to pay attention to it, as to a light shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts. ²⁰ Above all, you must understand that no prophecy of Scripture came about by the prophet’s own interpretation. ²¹ For prophecy never had its origin in the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.

Pay Attention to the Glory of the Son

Do you ever feel that grogginess that comes as darkness approaches? How the winter grind seem to just zap all your strength and you just yearn for the long days and warmth of a 40 degree day. Even a day that got to the 30’s would be nice. Because of such attitudes much of the joys that can be ours during the winter months are lost because we are stuck in a rut. The joys of these days of God’s grace are lost in the grind of winter spent complaining about the weather when they could be used, as all days, to hear the Word of God and focus on his many blessings to us.

With our faith, we slip into a “wintery blah.” We let the grind of life rub out our jubilation of forgiveness and let it be replaced with an endless busy-ness after human pursuits. God however gives you something real. He gives you his Word. Today in that word he encourages you to **PAY ATTENTION TO THE GLORY OF THE SON.**

If you are getting all weary and burdened in your faith those glimmers of the light of ass eternal bliss sure look good. Those first signs of the glory that is ours in Christ bring energy and joy. But those beams only work if they are real and not cheap knock offs and myths.

Peter assures us that he is not promoting any myth. The Bible is not a book of stories, but the world’s truest history. Sadly, many today are treating the Scriptures as myth. Myths have a strange appeal to the intellectual mind. The intellectual mind would tend to dismiss the promises of Christ’s coming as just another interesting myth with some higher truth behind it. We are told that we must “get behind” the myth to discover the real core of its meaning.

Peter speaks differently. **We did not follow cleverly invented stories when we told you about the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.** Rather than resort to using myths, Peter claims that he actually saw the glory of God on that holy mountain. What Peter is saying is that God uses him as a tour guide that actually saw what he speaks. He's able to give details and there is a certain glow in his words. He is able to describe what he saw in a special way because it isn't just telling about something he learned or read but about something that he experienced for himself. He was an ear and eyewitness.

What he saw was to bolster the Savior for his final battle with sin, Satan and death as well as mark Jesus as the only true Savior of the world. Those sights and words made certain for the men who got their first person view that Jesus was the Son of God. They got to hear **the Majestic Glory, saying, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased."** Peter received a glimpse of the glory shared by the Father and the Son from all eternity. The glory of God which had affirmed God's loving intervention in human affairs in the past, convincingly affirmed the work of his Son by this special voice on the sacred mountain. Such a glimpse made certain for Peter that Jesus was the only true Savior.

That glimpse also shows us that our Christian faith is not built on legends, myths or allegories which need the clever minds of men to segregate truth from fiction. Our Christian faith is based on the reality of God's Son existing in human flesh, with a body prepared for him by his Father. The body he gave unto death on the cross to bring us the light of life when we were surrounded by the blackness of death in sin.

The glory bestowed on the incarnate Christ is now a glory that is undeservingly bestowed on us who possess his righteousness through faith. Our hope of being called "beloved" by God does not rest on what is produced in this body of ours or in our minds. Approval from the heavenly Father is only given to Jesus, his Son, our Lord and Savior. His approval and acceptance by the Father becomes ours when we possess his righteousness through faith.

Here on earth, we lose sight of our powerful, wise, loving, and gracious God. When we struggle with a problem, we might say, “God, where are you? Why can’t I see you? Let me just this once see that you are here. Let me see the glory of your Son. Show me his glory that will be mine. I want to know that you are really my loving and gracious God.” When we say such things, do you realize that God is standing right next to you? He has all his power and wisdom and glory inches from you. He there even when you can’t see him. But God is not going to turn the lights on so that you can see him in a visible way. But he will connect you to the invisible God.

Just think of all the invisible things that are out there, all around you and you can’t see them. As we sit here in church, there are radio waves all around you, even though you can’t hear the music or the talking. There are television signals in this room, and satellite signals, but you can’t see the pictures they are producing. The air is filled with cell phone signals, but you can’t hear anything. As you sit here with all five of your senses, you can’t perceive anything. It’s all here. The only way you can, is by connecting yourself to one of those signals with a special device – a phone, a radio, a television, a computer.

And as we sit here with our five senses, we can’t perceive God’s presence. His glory is here. His wisdom and power are here. But we can’t perceive those things. And yet, there is a way that you can connect yourself to the invisible God. And that is here, through the Word. This is how you can connect to God, and to all of his glory. And once God makes this connection, and keep that connection going, you become more and more of a confident Christian. You become someone who doesn’t need to see God visibly, because you have faith that he’s here.

You will do well to pay attention to it, as to a light shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts. If you want to see that glory of God more brightly, if you want God to speak to you and guide you and encourage you and strengthen you, he tell you to use the words he has given to you. Not words that hidden from you and beyond your understanding. But the Scriptures which God gave by his Holy Spirit. He tells you to read and listen to the words that he wrote down through men who told of the glory that God revealed

and retold through them. **For prophecy never had its origin in the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.**

Here is the message of which God tells us, “Pay Attention to the Glory of the Son.” As we see the light of the return of Christ way off in the distance but ever getting brighter and brighter, God tells you, here look at these words found only in the Bible that will be your guide.

Do you know why we as Christians have such a hard time getting ourselves to read this book? Even though we are Christians, sometimes we lack interest in God’s Word? Have you ever noticed that about yourself? How is it that you can read the sports section so intently, and memorize all the different stats and trivia about the sports world, but you can’t get yourself to read God’s Word? How is it, that you can intently study the sales ads for clothing stores, or the catalogs, or spend hours surfing the internet for the best deals on things, but you won’t put half the energy into studying the Bible?

It’s because we are sinful people. Our sinfulness makes us shy away from this book and wins a victory by putting us to sleep in our laziness. We, the sinners, tremble before the glory fo Son like dead people. But there is good news in this book for sinners like you and me. Of all the glorious things that there are about God, the most glorious thing is the fact that this Jesus, who revealed his glory on that mountain, went to a different mountain, and hid his glory. Instead of being powerful and majestic, Jesus did something for you – he made himself lowly and humble. And he did that to take away your sins. Of all the majestic things that there are about God – his power over nature, his unbelievable intelligence – of all the majestic things – the greatest of them, was when God became nothing. When he hung on that cross. When Jesus, instead of bright and shining, hung there in the dark, and took away the sins of the world. The greatest of all the teachings in this book is the fact that because of his sacrifice, you are a forgiven child of God right now. God loves you right now and says, “These are my children whom I love.”

Pay attention to the Glory of the Son. God wants the light to grow in you. What better time to renew our life of study of God's Word and look again at his glory than Lent. As we struggle along life's way, what better time to throw off the grogginess of our sinfulness and get back into the Word. Not by giving something up but by starting or rekindling our minds around God's Word to view the only Son who pleases the Father. May God give us revitalized hearts that pay attention to the glory of the Son.