

## **SERIES: 'RECALL THESE THINGS- -9/1/24 (#2)**

### **PASTOR ROB**

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*2 Peter 1:16-21 - For we did not follow cleverly devised myths when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses of His Majesty. (17) For when He received honor and glory from God the Father, and the voice was borne to Him by the Majestic Glory, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased," (18) we ourselves heard this very voice borne from heaven, for we were with Him on the holy mountain. (19) And we have something more sure, the prophetic word 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 prophesy of Scripture comes from someone's own interpretation. (21) For no prophesy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.*

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- **To recap, Peter is recognizing that he is in the final moments of his life and is almost, effectively, eulogizing (recalling) some crucial things he has previously taught.**
- **In doing so, he is correcting the false prophets who assert that Jesus will not return...no 2nd coming. In the above passage, Peter is laying foundation for his correction.**
- **Pastor Rob's question to us: " How much does Jesus 2nd coming really impact me on a daily basis?"**
- **He follows with the analogy about how we all prepare so diligently/conscientiously when we anticipate the arrival of company at our home.....consider that urgency we feel....the urgency, in terms of Jesus' return, should be unfathomably greater. WE WANT TO BE READY!.....living holy lives.**
- **Four words can describe our anticipation of Him:**
  - \* **Urgency**
  - \* **Excitement**
  - \* **Anticipation**
  - \* **Hope of Relief**
- **As we muddle through our daily lives, do we still conjure up these intense emotions in advance of His coming?**
- **V-1..."...power and coming ..."...we feel the excitement! He's powerfully coming! And in Revelations we feel the excitement...' WHEN LORD....WHEN ARE YOU COMING?!!' With these words, Peter is countering the false prophets.**
- **In our daily, modern lives, smartphones/technology has altered our anticipation somewhat.....we are more aware of timing of arrivals.....with Jesus, we must maintain that excitement...we know He's coming, but when?!**
- **"For we did not follow cleverly devised myths..." Greek mythology and other mythical (made-up) stuff was pervasive in that local culture and polytheism was prevalent ....do not mix the truth that is Jesus with all these myths (ie. Greek gods..."gods that act like men").**

- Unlike these myths, Jesus Incarnate is not just a story; **HE IS REAL!!!**.....there are many eye witnesses like Peter. Such real people who were ready and **DID DIE** for their testimony and witnessing of Jesus. There is much history that supports the life of Jesus and its significance. A real man (AND Son of God)... amongst real people... a real place...and a real time in history....**NOT A MYTH!**
- Like-wise, there is a **REAL, LITERAL JESUS COMING!!**
- Peter, indeed, saw Jesus' miracles, His rising from the dead...and on top of it all, was at the Transfiguration....he heard the 'Voice of Majestic Glory!' **"THIS IS MY SON WHOM I LOVE; WITH HIM I AM WELL PLEASED; LISTEN TO HIM."**
- Peter is willingly dying because.....he witnessed Jesus in every regard ....he **KNOWS** Jesus is God.....and He **KNOWS** Jesus' teachings/promises.
  
- Pastor Rob tells of Dr. Simon Greenleaf (1783-1853)....one of Harvard Law School's founding fathers, a foremost legalist and an atheist. A student challenged him to put the Resurrection on trial...and disprove it. In that intense process, Simon has to shed his disbelief as he becomes convinced that—using the 'rules of evidence'- - the Christ witnesses were, in fact, veritable/ reliable and that the Resurrection did occur. In this dramatic theological and legalistic switch, he ultimately, by God's Grace, became an evangelist for Christ. Indeed, in 1846, he wrote a Treatise ("The Testimony of the Evangelists") on his conclusions that served to so dramatically convert his thinking and, ultimately, his life.
  
- Just like Greenleaf, unbelievers today need to contend with their disbelief versus the clear evidence that Jesus....and all aspects of the Gospels, are **REAL**. And that means **JESUS WILL RETURN!**
  
- "Anticipation"....since Jesus is **REAL**...not a myth....our anticipation of His coming should also be intensely **REAL**....just like our personal relationship with Him
  
- "Hope of Relief" ...see V-19....Peter is saying: 'take heed...pay attention'... to the prophetic Word and the detail (though not complete) that it does provide. God, through this Word is painting a picture of a story that we're part of and one where Jesus is at the center/core....and the story is not over yet....the 2nd Coming is **REAL**.
- Reflective of the kind of detail God does provide in His Word, the Old Testament contains at least 332 separate prophesies that Jesus fulfilled! ( fulfilling just 8 of these prophesies, according to one mathematician, the probability would be 1:10 to 17th power).
  
- V-20-21- - Remember, all Scripture is God-breathed!!! ...see 2 Tim 3:16- - "All Scripture is God-breathed and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, .... ." The text speaks for itself!
- In reference to 'the day dawning and the Morning Star rising, we can feel the hope of relief!! The most powerful part of Jesus' return is knowing that everything will be made right!!! Suffering and evil will disappear.....there is hope in Jesus! **SEE REV 19:11-16; SEE ALSO SEE REV 22:20.**

**THERE IS HOPE IN JESUS.....HE'S COMING SOON!**

