

2 Peter 1:15-21

For we did not follow cunningly devised fables when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of His majesty. For He received from God the Father honor and glory when such a voice came to Him from the Excellent Glory: "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased." And we heard this voice which came from heaven when we were with Him on the holy mountain. And so we have the prophetic word confirmed, which you do well to heed as a light that shines in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts; knowing this first, that no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation, for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit.

God's Certain Word

With a sense of panic I jumped from my stalled car, seeking desperately to push it off the railroad tracks before the oncoming train destroyed it. Knowing that I had about ten seconds before impact, I pushed with all my might, but to no avail. The car devouring train continued to advance upon me with what seemed a smile, delighting in the inevitable demise of my rubber wheeled intruder. Then, just before the crunch of impact, I awoke from sleep, soaked with sweat, muscles aching from the strain. My emotional and physical framework had "experienced" what my mind had fabricated.

"Experiences" are very subjective things, and therefore should not be the sole foundation of something as vitally important as a relationship with God, our hope of salvation. Peter stated this very truth. Speaking of His real experience of being with Jesus on the mountain and seeing Christ "transformed" before him as the glory of God shone forth, Peter states: "For he (Jesus) received honour 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." We ourselves heard this voice that came from heaven when we were with him on the sacred mountain. And (yet) we have the word of the prophets made more certain, and you will do well to pay attention to it" (2 Peter 1:17-19 NIV).

Although Peter had enjoyed the wonderful "experience" of seeing Christ in His glory (see Mark 16), he declared the scriptural record to be a "more certain" source. Peter uses the grammatically proper form of the root word "βεβαιος" (beb'-ah-yos), meaning steadfast, sure, stable. He is declaring scriptures to be the certain foundation for knowing the Lord Jesus Christ. Jesus declared the same truth in these words: "I tell you the truth, until heaven and earth disappear, not the smallest letter, not the least stroke of a pen, will by any means disappear from the Law until everything is accomplished." (Matthew 5:18 NIV).

For many today, "Christianity" is nothing more than a subjective experience of emotional euphoria. To stake eternity on such shaky ground is a dangerous thing. The reality of salvation (the receiving of new life in Christ - see Romans 6), is defined in objective truth: "That if you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved." (Romans 10:9-10 NIV), resulting in a true and real confidence: "...we who have fled to take hold of the hope offered to us may be greatly encouraged. We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure." (Hebrews 6:18-19 NIV). Friend, how real is your relation to Jesus?

What is my response:
