

How We Respond

Wednesday, April 09, 2008
7:36 AM

Opening Illustration - A description of Esther - are the words exact? Are the words true? Is Esther being described.

Describing the theological liberals of his day, Niebhur wrote that they believed in "A God without wrath who brought men without sin into a kingdom without judgment through the ministrations of a Christ without a cross." H. Richard Niebhur, cited by WWNE, p.196

Something More Sure	2 Peter 1:16-2:3
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The Personal Witness (1:16-18)

¹⁶ 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.

- What we teach are not myths (v.16)
- We had a personal experience (v.17)
- We were corrected by God (v.18)

The Sure Word (1:19-21)

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 prophecy of Scripture comes from someone's own interpretation. ²¹ For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.

- We have something more sure than our experience
- We must pay attention to it over our experience
- We must have it become our own experience
- We must affirm that it is the truth from God and by God

The Solemn Warning (2:1-3)

² But false prophets also arose among the people, just as there will be false teachers among you, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies, even denying the Master who bought them, bringing upon themselves swift destruction. ² And many will follow their sensuality, and because of them the way of truth will be blasphemed. ³ And in their greed they will exploit you with false words. Their condemnation from long ago is not idle, and their destruction is not asleep.

- Just as there were false prophets, we will face false teaching
- False teachers will arise from within
- The false teachers bring destructive heresies
- The false teachers will be swiftly destroyed
- The false teachers will lead many into sensuality and error
- The false teachers will take advantage of people by deceptive (false) words

Points to Ponder	
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Unless people are convinced that the Bible is authoritative, true, inspired and the very words of God, over time they will read it less frequently, know it less fully and trust it less surely." WWNE, p.78

Three fundamental truths from the Bible [WWNE. p.112]

- People go to hell for believing the wrong things (Galatians 1:8).
- People within the church must be corrected when they believe the wrong thing (Titus 1:9).
- People are sometimes not allowed in your house for believing the wrong things (2 John 9-10).

Lessons	
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Rebels have Reasons

Every call for change in the church may identify real problems in the church

Choices have Consequences

Doubt cannot be Declared

Every confident statement of doubt is suicidal
"I doubt your assertions of doubt..."

False Dichotomies be Damned

Examples:

- Assertive faith is arrogant
- Hesitant doubt is humble

Anti-Movements are Movements

"We are not a movement. Come join us."

Carnality is Carnal

Worldly, sensual, vulgar talk is still sinful.