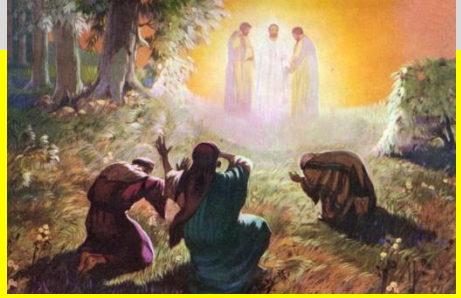


2 Peter 1:16-21 ESV

# Proof!

**Jesus is God's Son; He  
is the only way to heaven!**



Services: Sunday, 2/26 at 8:00 & 10:45 + Monday, 2/27 at 7 PM

Church Year: The Transfiguration of Our Lord – 2017

**Mondays Continue through Lent | March 1 is Ash Wednesday**

**Introduction:** Dear friends: The LORD said, “...**be holy, for I am holy**” (Lev. 11:44 ESV). God’s Word teaches that ☹️**we have all** done wrong, ☹️**we have all** broken God’s laws, and ☹️**we have all** condemned ourselves. Therefore, no matter who we are, no matter what we do, we cannot save ourselves – *because we cannot make ourselves holy*☹️.

Therefore, **in** great love and **with** great power, God has provided our rescue through Jesus; He is the very Son of God in human flesh! How can we know that is true? Because, in today’s epistle reading, we are going to consider three important forms of proof: **(1)** eyewitness testimony, **(2)** the actual voice of God, and **(3)** the Holy Scriptures. We could call them good, better, and best! May the Holy Spirit convince us that +all such things are true and +Jesus is our all-sufficient Savior!

- Good – Eye-Witness Testimony:** <sup>16</sup> **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 [greatness].**

- a. Jesus' ministry: Peter and the other apostles were with Jesus during those years of ministry, *so they were eyewitnesses of countless amazing things*:
- i. When Jesus met a man who could not walk, He forgave his sins and healed him; then the man stood up and walked ([Luke 5:17-26](#))!
  - ii. When Jesus wanted to go from one side of the Sea of Galilee to the other, *but did not have a boat*, He walked on the water ([Matt. 14:22-32](#))!
  - iii. When a little girl was sick and then died, Jesus took her by the hand and life flowed back into her lifeless body ([Mark 5:21-24, 35-43](#))!
- b. Jesus' power and coming: Can you imagine someone telling you about a person who ♦lived, ♦died, ♦was raised to life, ♦went to heaven, and ♦will eventually return to earth with great power? Sounds impossible, *yet Peter wanted his readers to remember that he was an eyewitness of Jesus' greatness!* He didn't just hear about Jesus' transfiguration, when "[his face shown like the sun, and his clothes became white as light](#)" ([Matt. 17:2](#)); instead, *Peter actually saw it with his very own eyes!* Therefore, let us know that ➡Jesus is God, ➡we are forgiven through Him, and ➡He will come again!

2. **Better – The Voice of God the Father**: <sup>17</sup> **For when he [Jesus] received honor and glory from God the Father, and the voice was borne [uttered] to him by the Majestic Glory, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased,"** <sup>18</sup> **we ourselves heard this very voice borne**

[uttered] **from heaven, for we were with him on the holy mountain.** // In today's gospel reading Jesus took Peter, James, and John with Him up unto a high mountain. That is when ➡ Jesus shown like the sun, ➡ Moses and Elijah appeared with Jesus, and ➡ God the Father spoke from heaven – ✓ *clearly identifying Jesus to be His beloved Son*, ✓ *stating that He was pleased with Him*, and ✓ *stating that we should listen to Him!* **Earlier**, Peter stated that he saw Jesus' majesty with his very own eyes; **here**, Peter stated that he heard the very voice of God with his very own ears. Both realities are proof that Jesus is God's Son, *the only way to heaven!*

3. **Best – The Prophetic Word:** From God and written!
- a. Pay attention: <sup>19</sup> **And we have the prophetic word more fully confirmed, to which you will do well to pay attention** [to give heed, to follow] **as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts...**
    - i. The prophetic word is the OT Scriptures. Imagine being in a very dark place; **then one match is lit.** *Your attention would immediately be drawn to that match!* Here, we are talking about something much more important! As a match in the dark draws our attention for a moment, so, here, *the Holy Scriptures should keep drawing our attention until the return of Jesus!*
    - ii. **Dr. Kretzmann** noted that the Word of God is “**not truer** [than Peter's eye-witness testimony or the voice of God], **but it was**

more certain, so far as the readers were concerned, than the doctrine taught by the apostles. [In other words], there was no question... that the OT prophecies, [thus] all the canonical books of the OT, were God's Word" (NT1:547). So Peter wanted his readers to know that what he taught *agreed with the Sacred Writings!*

- b. It is from God: <sup>20</sup> **knowing this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture comes from someone's own interpretation [explanation].** <sup>21</sup> **For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man [as if the prophecy originated with man], but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.** // Many in the twenty-first century say the Bible is from men; *that is their reason to ignore it.* But God wants us to know that none of it originated with a man; instead, *the Bible is God's Word*, so it came ♦from God the Father ♦to the Holy Spirit ♦who moved men to write down the very words of God!

**Conclusion:** Our problem is sin; *we can't fix it, so we need the Son of God to save us!* Today, we heard about †the eyewitness account of Peter, †the voice of God the Father, and †the certainty of the Holy Scriptures; they all agree, **Jesus is the Promised Savior!**

Let us pray: Dear Father, impress upon us that good is NOT good enough; then, *being aware of our great need for Jesus*, let us ever-trust in Him! In Jesus' name, we pray...