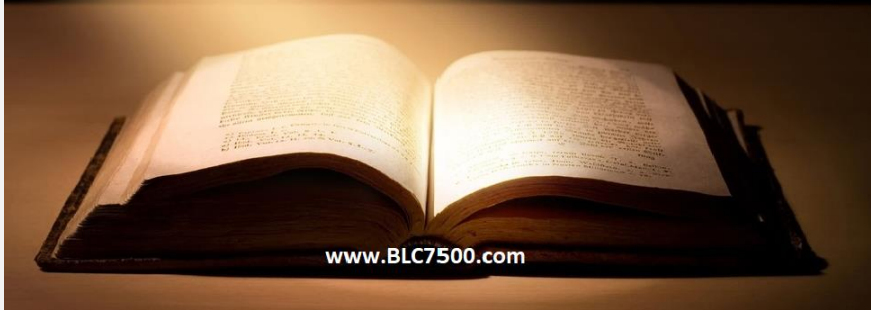


The Transfiguration of Our Lord – 2023
Saturday, 2/18 at 4:00 | Sunday, 2/19 at 9:00

Pay Attention to the Bible

It Is God's Word for Our Temporal and Eternal Benefit



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Text: 2 Peter 1:16-21 NAS 1995

Introduction: Dear friends: *God has gifted us with*
▶ belief in His word, ▶ godly sorrow, and ▶ trust in
Jesus, so we are in a MOST BLESSED situation:

**We know about ▶ the power of sin to eternally
condemn and ▶ the power of Jesus to eternally save!**

Long ago, Peter came to this conclusion: As long as I
am physically alive, **I will keep telling people to PAY
ATTENTION TO THE BIBLE.** *Let us do the same!*

In this sermon, which is based on **2 Peter 1:16-21**,
may the Holy Spirit:

- Grow our confidence in the Bible.
- Help us point others to the Bible.

1. **The Importance of Jesus' Transfiguration:**

- a. Not Lies, But Truth: Peter wrote: ¹⁶ **...we** [*I and the other apostles*] **did not follow cleverly devised tales when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses of His majesty.**
 - i. When Satan Lied in Eden: He had an agenda – to ✦ruin God's perfect creation and ✦sever the relationship between God and people.
 - ii. Today: Many are lying to ✦cancel God, ✦corrupt His saving truth, and ✦keep people in the devil's family.
 - iii. In Peter's Time: His stories of Jesus' **power** and **greatness** may have seemed like lies, but ✦he was an eyewitness and ✦God confirmed his words through miracles.
- b. We Heard the Father: Peter continued: ¹⁷ **For when [Jesus] received honor and glory from God the Father** [*when He was transfigured*], **such an utterance as this was made to [Jesus] by the Majestic Glory** [*the Father*], **“This is My beloved Son with whom I am well-pleased”** – ¹⁸ **and we ourselves** [*I, Peter, as well as James and John*] **heard this utterance made from heaven when we were with Him on the holy mountain.**
 - i. Identification: Since God's original promise of the Messiah, *some people longed for His arrival.* But how would they know it was Him? He would:

1. Fulfill prophecy.
2. Speak truth.
3. Confirm His words with miracles.

With Jesus of Nazareth, *all such things happened repeatedly!*

- ii. Even Greater Confirmation: Peter, James, and John heard God say: “**This is My beloved Son with whom I am well-pleased.**”
- iii. Certainty: As we are certain we have done wrong, *let us be even more certain that God has made us right in His sight through our God-given faith in Jesus – the One in whom we trust for eternal life!*

2. **The Importance of Biblical Prophecy:**

- a. Regarding the Words the Father Spoke about Jesus: Peter wrote: ¹⁹ **So we have the prophetic word** [the OT Scriptures] **made more sure, to which you do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star arises in your hearts.**
 - i. More Sure: Peter was sure about the reliability of the Scriptures, *but God made the Scriptures even more sure to P, J, and J when they heard the Father speak from heaven.*
 - ii. Pay Attention: As we follow *the beam of a flashlight in a dark place*, so let us *keep paying attention to God’s word* until the return of Jesus!

- iii. What about People who Need our Spiritual Help? *Let us tell them to **pay attention to the Bible!*** When Paul spoke to the Ephesian elders for the final time, he said to them: “*And now I commend you to God and to the word of His grace, which is able to **build you up** and to **give you the inheritance** among all those who are sanctified” (Acts 20:32).*
- b. A Fundamental Difference: Peter wrote: ²⁰ **But know this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture is a matter of one's own interpretation** [explanation], ²¹ **for no prophecy was ever made by an act of human will, but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.**
- i. Important Question: What is the way to heaven? Many tend to say what they **THINK** or **FEEL**, but what is missing?
- ii. Certainty: Since ALL PEOPLE are flawed in their **thinking** and **feeling**, God has blessed us with His word of truth. So, *when it comes to THE WAY TO HEAVEN*, we have what is TRUE and CERTAIN *when we look to what God has told us in His word!*

Let Us Pray: Father in heaven, by Your grace, mercy, and power, ✦flood our minds and hearts with Your truth, ✦cancel our wrong ways of thinking and feeling, ✦grant us total certainty in Your word, and ✦use us to encourage others to **PAY ATTENTION TO YOUR WORD!**

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