

In the Name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Ghost.

St. Peter writes to testify to the fact of the miraculous Transfiguration of our Lord Jesus Christ. He, with Zebedee's sons, was taken up the mountain by the Lord, and was eyewitness to what he calls "the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ."

St. Peter not only chronicles the fact of Christ's transfiguration, He unpacks the theology of it. They saw Christ's majesty. They witnessed the Son receiving honor and glory from God the Father, as he heard the audible voice of the Father declare "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased." He testifies that the voice came from heaven.

And then he explains the Mystery of the Transfiguration in another way. He writes "And so we have the Prophetic Word confirmed." That Word, the Spirit-inspired foretelling of the Christ, is a Word that "you do well to heed as a Light shining in a dark place."

And then the Chief of the Apostles testifies as to the nature of Holy Scripture: "...prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit." The Apostle's record of the miraculous vision is a testimony to you of the importance of the Word of God.

To us it may seem strange that the Apostle so quickly mentions the Transfiguration, and then spends as many words teaching of the nature and efficacy and veracity of Scripture. But it is a lesson that we all need. It is salvific in nature, salutary in function. Unlike the critics and the so-called scholars, we

believe that the Bible is the Word of God, inspired, inerrant, without contradiction, without "problems". To that St. Peter testifies. And for you that is of the utmost importance, for what you know about God, what you believe about God, has its sole source in the Prophetic and Apostolic Scriptures.

St. John records the Lord's rebuke of Scripture scholars par excellence, the Jews, who sought to kill Him: "You search the Scriptures, for in them you think you have eternal life; and these are they which testify of Me. But you are not willing to come to Me that you may have life."

So knowing the Scriptures is necessary to salvation, but it does not equate to salvation. The devil knows the Scriptures too, better than any man. His devious and skillful twisting of the Word of God as he tempted the Baptized Lord would have defeated all of us. Like the Jews that desired to kill Jesus, the devil knows the Scriptures well, but doesn't believe them. And he desires to lead you into the same unbelief.

Sin is believing the hissing word of the tempter over the clear Word of God. It is listening to your flesh rather than listening to the Apostles and Prophets. But sin comes not only from failing to believe in Christ, it comes also from failing to believe the Scriptures, by which God the Spirit works and sustains faith in Christ.

So our Lord rebuked the Sadducees who tried to trick Him by saying "You are mistaken, not knowing the Scriptures nor the power of God." And so the Lord warns: "He who rejects Me, and does not receive My words, has that which judges him-- the word that I have spoken will judge him in the last day."

In mercy, in love, in a demonstration of His boundless grace, the God who made you, the God who was crucified and rose again to redeemed you, the God who sanctifies you, gave His saving Word to St. Peter, that from the Chief of the Apostles you might receive that same word – that you too have the Prophetic Word confirmed, that you have the testimony of the eye witnesses.

For all things are of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation, that is, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not imputing their trespasses to them, and has committed to us the word of reconciliation.

And that Word never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit, that by their Words, by their Testimony, by the work of the same Spirit, you be saved.

And this day that Word shines in a dark place, the Light of the Gospel piercing the darkness of this fallen world and the darkness of the hearts of men, bringing Light and Life to you.

And the same Christ who is the Center of the Prophetic and Apostolic Scriptures, and the fulfillment of all prophecy, places His Body with Bread and His Blood with wine for you to eat and drink this day, for the forgiveness of your sins, and the strengthening of your faith. For in you has the day dawned, in your hearts has the morning star risen, and in Him you too will rise.

In the Name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Ghost.