

Listen to Me; 1 Peter 1:16-21

I. Misinformation

- A. There is so much misinformation in the world today
- B. News organizations only print what they want you to think
 - 1. Muslim ban
 - 2. Travel ban from 7 countries which are predominantly Muslim (and have been on a watchlist for many years)
 - 3. I'm not for or against our President; I am for truth!
- C. There is also much misinformation concerning the Christianity
 - 1. In the 1st Century this misinformation was centered around combining Judaism and pagan religions with Christianity
 - 2. Jews were requiring that Gentile Christians follow the Law of Moses (Acts 11:1-3; Galatians 2:12; Titus 1:10)
 - 3. Gentiles wanted to bring in pagan worship rituals (most of our holidays come from pagan worship rituals)
- D. Peter wants to set his readers straight; so he says (basically), "listen to me"

II. Eyewitnesses

- A. 2 Peter 1:16–18 (ESV); 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.
- B. One who sees to or attends to, with implication of careful scrutiny, a watchful observer ¹
- C. To have first-hand acquaintance with something, with implication of special privilege ²
- D. Luke 5:2-11
 - 1. This is Peter's first contact with Jesus
 - 2. "Stop cleaning your nets so I can teach the people"
 - 3. "Even though you did not catch anything, go fishing again"
- E. Acts 1:21–22 (ESV); ²¹ So one of the men who have accompanied us during all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, ²² beginning from the baptism of John until the day when he was taken up from us—one of these men must become with us a witness to his resurrection."
- F. So Jesus wants people who saw and heard what He said to write it down (or be the source material for those who write it down)
- G. And this is exactly what we have in our New Testament
- H. 1 John 1:1-5

III. Confirmed

- A. 2 Peter 1:19 (ESV); ¹⁹ And we have the prophetic word more fully confirmed, 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,
- B. By the time 2 Peter was written most of our New Testament had already been penned

¹ William Arndt, Frederick W. Danker, and Walter Bauer, *A Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament and Other Early Christian Literature* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2000), 387.

² *ibid*, 388.

- C. John's writings were written after 2 Peter
 - D. So, most of the eyewitness accounts had been written and distributed to the churches (35-40 years after Jesus' death)
 - E. So we would "do well to pay attention"
 - F. John 6:66–69 (ESV); ⁶⁶ After this many of his disciples turned back and no longer walked with him. ⁶⁷ So Jesus said to the twelve, "Do you want to go away as well?" ⁶⁸ Simon Peter answered him, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life, ⁶⁹ and we have believed, and have come to know, that you are the Holy One of God."
 - 1. Jesus had just finished saying "I am the bread that came down from heaven," the Bread of Life
 - 2. The Jews were grumbling at Him about His statement
 - 3. John 6:53 (ESV); So Jesus said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you.
 - 4. Under the Mosaic Law, flesh and blood were forbidden to eat
 - 5. But they were not thinking spiritually, but physically
 - 6. They were not paying attention!
 - G. We have to pay attention to the Gospel of Jesus
 - 1. God (through Moses) said "it is to Him you shall listen" (Deuteronomy 18:15)
 - 2. God showed the world Jesus at His baptism
 - 3. Matthew 3:16–17 (ESV); ¹⁶ And when Jesus was baptized, immediately he went up from the water, and behold, the heavens were opened to him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming to rest on him; ¹⁷ and behold, a voice from heaven said, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased."
 - 4. God (on the mountain where Jesus was transfigured) showed Peter two great people God (Elijah and Moses) speaking with Jesus and said, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to Him."
 - H. Yet we want to change the Gospel of Jesus to fit our own thoughts and concepts
- IV. The Will of man
- A. 2 Peter 1:20–21 (ESV); 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.
 - B. From the very beginning people were trying to change the Gospel to make it fall in line with their thinking
 - 1. The Pharisees schemed to put Jesus to death to fit their understanding of Scripture
 - 2. Jews who converted to Christianity tried to change Jesus' gospel to fit their own understanding
 - 3. Gentile Christians were so entrenched in sin that they made up a teaching that there was no sin and you could do anything you want (antinomianism)
 - 4. Christians thought that in order for there to be more Grace they had to sin more
 - C. And it continues today
 - 1. Some say you must speak in tongues in order to be saved (baptism of the Spirit)
 - 2. Some say you must ask Jesus into your heart to be saved
 - 3. Some say you must accept God's love and you are saved
 - 4. Some say you must worship on the old Sabbath day
 - 5. Some say that God has already chosen the saved and we have no choice in the matter (predestination)
 - D. There is one concept that I keep coming across over and over again
 - 1. 1 Peter 4:16–18 (ESV); ¹⁶ Yet if anyone suffers as a Christian, let him not be ashamed, but let him glorify God in that name. ¹⁷ For it is time for judgment to begin

- at the household of God; and if it begins with us, what will be the outcome for those who do not obey the gospel of God? ¹⁸ And “If the righteous is scarcely saved, what will become of the ungodly and the sinner?”
2. 2 Thessalonians 1:7–9 (ESV); ^{7b} when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with his mighty angels ⁸ in flaming fire, inflicting vengeance on those who do not know God and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. ⁹ They will suffer the punishment of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of his might,
 3. Romans 10:15–16 (ESV); ¹⁵ And how are they to preach unless they are sent? As it is written, “How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!” ¹⁶ But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Isaiah says, “Lord, who has believed what he has heard from us?”
 4. Paul even opens and closes his letter to the Romans with “the obedience of faith,” (Romans 1:5; 16:26)
- E. God wants us to do His will, not ours; and that includes understanding the Scriptures
- V. Listen to Me
- A. We have eyewitness reports
 - B. These are confirmed in writing by the Holy Spirit
 - C. Who have no right to create misinformation or another Gospel which is not really a Gospel
 - D. Galatians 1:6–7 (ESV); ⁶ I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting him who called you in the grace of Christ and are turning to a different gospel— ⁷ not that there is another one, but there are some who trouble you and want to distort the gospel of Christ.
 - E. Obey the Gospel of Jesus