

A photograph of ancient Greek temple ruins, featuring several tall, fluted columns and a partially collapsed entablature against a cloudy sky. The image is overlaid with a dark blue horizontal band containing white text.

God's Word: Relevant and Reliable Truth

2 Peter 1:16-21

An Exposition through 2 Peter: Established in the Truth

I. Seeing and Hearing the **Incarnate Word** (2 Peter 1:16-18)

v16 *“For we did not follow cleverly devised tales...”*

“We did not follow” – we did not pursue, form, or base our teaching on cleverly devised tales.

“Cleverly devised” is one word meaning to cunningly invent; to artfully frame by human cleverness.

“Tales” (mythois) = myth. New Testament believers were steeped in and surrounded by the myths of Jewish and Greek cultures.”

I. Seeing and Hearing the **Incarnate Word** (2 Peter 1:16-18)

v16 *“For we did not follow cleverly devised tales when we made known to you the **power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ...**”*

II. Seeing and Hearing the **Inspired Word** (2 Peter 1:19-21)

Grammatical negatives:

- v16 *“...we did not follow...”*
- v20 *“...no prophecy of Scripture is a matter of one’s own interpretation...”*
- v21 *“for no prophecy was ever made by an act of human will.”*

“On each occasion Peter positions authority in the post-apostolic era away from people and persons. And in their place he puts the very words of God.... It will be the *words* of the biblical apostles and prophets, as given to them by the Holy Spirit, that provide the lone voice for the faithful after Peter’s death.” (David Helm)

II. Seeing and Hearing the **Inspired Word** (2 Peter 1:19-21)

The Word of God is a **lamp** unto our feet and a **light** to our path. And the Holy Spirit uses God's Word to **illumine** us, so that the **glory** of Jesus Christ will shine in our hearts **by faith**.

The greater and more sure reality of what God **has** provided as His voice of direction, to help you walk by **faith**, is **His written word** testifying to **His incarnate Word** in Jesus Christ, His Son.

We can trust the Bible because God wrote it (2 Tim 3:16).

Inspiration holds that He wrote it for us and for our instruction (Rom. 15:4). ***Inerrancy*** guarantees us that God protected His written Word from error so that it is trustworthy (2 Pet. 1:19-21). And the Bible is ***authoritative*** and binding on our lives because God means for Scripture to be His final word of truth by which we understand, measure, and live all of life to please Him in all respects (Col. 1:9-10).

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