

Dear People who are walking in the light of his glory,

I was impressed with the flashlights and lanterns that I looked at in an online catalog. One flash light bragged of 3 hours of non-diminishing light. Then there was the more powerful flashlight that cast a beam of light a thousand feet and lasted up to 6 hours. It was twice as expensive. Then there was the lantern that proclaimed it was the longest lasting. It could last 200 hours before it lost its charge. It would cost you \$65. Sounds like something you could use if you went without power for a few days. Unfortunately none of the lights that I looked at said that they would last forever. Most lights fail sooner or later.

There is one light that will never go out, at least until the world ends. It is the light of Scripture. This is a light that we need in a world of spiritual darkness. It reveals Jesus and his glory. This light is completely reliable. St. Peter in his last days reminds his first readers and us that, **Scripture Light Is Glorious.**

1. Scripture light is necessary.

Flashlights are useful, but we could live without them. Sun light we can't live without. Peter also wants us to remember that we can't live without Scripture light. The light from God's word is necessary.

A. Peter writes 2 Peter in his last days. When a person knows time is short they tend to stick to what is most important.

1. Peter has something important to talk about (16), **"For we did not follow cleverly devised stories when we told you about the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ in power."** Peter had told these believers that Jesus was returning visibly, physically to the world on the last day. He would come in power and glory. This was not something he made up. It is real. On that day people will be sent to Heaven or Hell. Where they go is based on Jesus' words in Mark 16, **"Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned."** We confess all these things to be true every time we recite the Apostles' Creed.

2. Peter did not want the Christians he was writing to forget this. He says, **"You do well to pay attention to it, as to a light shining in a dark place."** The way to pay attention to Jesus and his return is by going to the Scriptures.

The reason we need the light of Scripture is because we live in this **“dark place,”** this fallen world. When there is a warning of a hurricane or a dam collapse, most people will get out of the danger zone, but not all. When you warn of the return of Jesus and the end of the world very few people are moved or concerned.

The “darkness,” mentioned by Peter, is found in the human heart. People do not know God and they do not love him. All of us would be lost forever if the light of Scripture did not shine into our hearts. As it shines it shows us that our lack of knowledge and even hatred for God comes from sin. The Bible says we are conceived and born in sin. The Scripture also shows the solution. God’s Son was sent into this dark world to be the light of the world and save us.

Peter says don’t take your eyes off Jesus. Keep watching him in Scripture until the **“Morning Star rises in your heart.”** That is a reference to Jesus’ return. When he returns we won’t need Scripture light to see Jesus. Then we will see him and live with him in person.

2. Scripture light is revealing.

I remember when we were learned in grade school science class that plants use light to grow, we wanted our teacher to tell us how. So she explained and showed what photosynthesis was all about.

Scripture light shows us that we have a Savior and it reveals how he saved us. Peter was with Jesus. He had witnessed many things in Jesus’ life and work. Here he talks about Jesus’ glory.

A. **“We were eyewitnesses of his majesty.”** Peter saw Jesus’ glory on the Mount of Transfiguration. One minute Jesus looked normal. The next we are told by Matthew, **“His face shone like the sun, and his clothes became as white as the light.” (17:2)** Peter had also seen Moses and Elijah, the two great prophets of the Old Testament standing there and talking with Jesus.

Many years later Peter was still awestruck by what he saw. We should be impressed that Jesus isn’t just a great man or even a great prophet, but the glory streaming from shows that he is God. Our Savior is God over all the universe. We should expect great things from him.

B. Peter remembers that the Heavenly Father thought Jesus was special because he honored and glorified him on the mountain. The Father did it with his presence and with his voice, **“This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased.”** This is important because the Jewish religious

leaders were voicing their doubts about Jesus and so were some of the most prominent people in community. God, the Father, does not hesitate. He is pleased because Jesus has done everything perfectly. The Scriptures show us that Jesus not only conducted himself perfectly during his early life and ministry, but he was perfect in his sufferings and death. The light coming from Jesus is the forgiveness of sins that a fallen world needs. It is a light that shines from the empty cross and the empty tomb. In Jesus all your sins are forgiven and the Heavenly Father is pleased to open up Heaven for you. So the light of salvation pouring from Scripture is just what this dark world needs and it is glorious.

3. Scripture light is certain.

This sounds like great news. However, there are questions about news today. Is it real or is it fake? The devil would like us to question the Good News of Scripture. Peter anticipates this and tells us that Scripture light is certain.

A. He says with confidence that Scripture is completely reliable. Verse 19, **“We also have the prophetic message as something completely reliable.”** Peter refers to the Bible of his day which is the Old Testament. Moses, the prophets and others like King David were given the Word. God spoke directly to Moses. At others times he communicated in dreams or visions. These men or their secretaries wrote the words on parchment or scrolls to preserve God’s word. Today we have books with paper in them. God is giving human being his word to have and to share. It has been passed down to us.

B. Peter anticipates another objection. How do we know that this is actually God’s word? Even if he gave his word how do we know the prophets didn’t make mistakes or change it when they took possession of it? Peter assures us that God, the Holy Spirit oversaw the whole process. **20 Above all, you must understand that no prophecy of Scripture came about by the prophet’s own interpretation of things. 21 For prophecy never had its origin in the human will, but prophets, though human, spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.** This is not only true for the Old Testament, but also for the New Testament. The Holy Spirit made sure that they had the correct words and that those words were communicated to God’s people. We believe that not one word of God’s original communication was lost because the Holy Spirit was overseeing the process.

What I have just told you is true for the original Greek and Hebrew Testaments. (slide) However, all translations will have some mistakes or errors in them due to the translators. As you choose a Bible to use regularly, you will want to choose one that faithfully follows the original as much as possible. The good news is that today we are blessed with many good translations available today for our use. (slide) You generally do not have to worry that a mistake in the translation is going to lead you down the wrong path. There are liberal translations of the Bible however that you have to be more careful with.

The fact that God has given us his word and in these pages our glorious Savior is revealed should move us. We should regularly read and think about what the Bible says about our Savior and our salvation. We are blessed when we hear the word and keep it.

Conclusion: Here is...the flashlight I keep in my office...the Bible that I have used for many years. Do you see the similarity? They are actually both lights. One serves so I don't stub my toe in the dark. The other shows me the light of salvation. The psalm writer says, **"Your word is a lamp for my feet and a light on my path."** (119:105) As we see Jesus in the Scriptures, we see his glory. We see our salvation. For us Scripture light is glorious. Amen.