

## Second Sunday after Pentecost

Sermon Road Map

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2 Peter 1:19-2:3

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### Defend the Bible? No way! Unleash it!

- When Satan proclaimed false doctrine to Eve - Response: defend God
  - It didn't turn out well at all!
- We love God & his Word. We react to attacks on both.
  - Shock. Sadness. Anger. Attack to defend.

Charles Spurgeon, the 19<sup>th</sup> Century English preacher offers this sound advice:

*Defend the Bible? I would as soon defend a lion!  
Unchain it and it will defend itself.* Charles Spurgeon

### Defend the Bible? No way! Unleash it!

❖ Unleash what? God's living and powerful Word

<sup>20</sup> Above all, you must understand that no prophecy of Scripture came about by the prophet's own interpretation of things. <sup>21</sup> 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.

- Of critical primary importance: Know the Source of the Scripture - God!
  - While God used men to put pen to papyri - the words are not a human creation, given birth in the heart, mind, and will of humans!
  - The Word flows from the heart and will of God. It's all God's Word.
    - Proclaiming God's mind: holy will and saving promises.
    - Recording accurately the rebellion and folly of the fallen.
  - The Bible is **not** a **natural** document. It's a **miracle** - divinely given.
  - Truth straight from God - precise, accurate, reliable - totally trustworthy
- The Spirit who gave it remains in it, actively working through it.
  - Heb 4:12 *For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.*

❖ Let the Word expose the Liar and his deceiving horde.

- <sup>44</sup> *...the devil, ... was a murderer from the beginning, not holding to the truth, for there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies.* John 8
  - False notions and convictions - the deadly source of all sin
  - Satan mimics God, raising up messengers - false prophets

- *...there were also false prophets among the people, just as there will be false teachers among you. They will secretly introduce destructive heresies...* 2 Peter 2:1
- Ever-present false prophets, i.e. imitation prophets
  - Claim to speak for God - in touch with the divine - may seem sincere
  - False to claim to be a prophet. False message - not God's truth
  - There is no such thing as *harmless heresy*. Heresy harms!
    - Trusts a lie, starves, poisons, insults the Spirit, offers a fake Jesus
- God himself will defend his Word - his reputation - his saving tool.
  - Like Korah and his followers whom Yahweh swallowed & buried (NB 16) - you don't want to be found standing with false prophets.
  - *...bringing swift destruction on themselves... Their condemnation has long been hanging over them, and their destruction has not been sleeping.* 2 Peter 2:1-3
  - Critical. Only his Word rescues from Satan's lies. Be zealous with it.
- ❖ To unleash first consider: *How am I restraining God's Word?*
  - <sup>19</sup> *We also have the prophetic message as something completely reliable, and you will do well to pay attention to it, as to a light shining in a dark place.*
    - Start with ourselves: *you will do well to pay attention to it*
      - Let God's Word take captive our every thought.
      - We restrain God's word when we don't let it loose in our lives.
        - Insulating personal notions that are not obedient to the Word.
        - Letting lies and death reign there. Robbed of joy, peace, life.
      - Avoid private interpretation - arranging the word per our will.
        - Submit to Scripture: let Scripture interpret Scripture.
        - Test against the collective wisdom of those who do that.
      - Don't stop with: *I know it. I believe it. I just can't explain it.*
        - Start with *What*, then ask *What does this mean*: significance & hope
        - Discuss with fellow believers - share it with friends - get equipped
        - Learn to shine the light of the Word on lies - Unleash it!
          - ❖ When you hear false prophets, don't rail against.
          - ❖ Shine the light on - with those with you. Don't defend. Unleash!

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