

Second Sunday after Pentecost

Sermon Road Map

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2 Peter 1:19-2:3

June 3, 2018

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 19th 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

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.

- 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.

- ⁴⁴ *...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?*
 - ¹⁹ *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!

Defend the Bible? No way! Unleash it!