

## Second Sunday after Pentecost

Sermon Road Map  
Pastor Roger W. Huffman

2 Peter 1:20-2:3  
June 21 & 22, 2014

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

God's Word has been under attack ever since Satan showed up in Eden disguised as a serpent. God's people rightly get upset by that. But Charles Spurgeon, the 19<sup>th</sup> Century English preacher offers this sound advise:

*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 Word

*Above all, you must understand that no prophecy of Scripture came about by the prophet's own interpretation. <sup>21</sup>For prophecy never had its origin in the will of man, but men 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 Will: law and promises.
    - Recording accurately the sins and folly of the fallen.
  - The Bible is not a natural document. It's a miracle - divinely given.
  - Straight from God. Truth - precise, accurate, reliable - trust worthy.
- 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.*

#### ❖ Unleash the Word knowing the world is full of pseudo-prophets.

- *But 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
- False prophet = pseudo-prophet, imitation prophets.
  - Claim to speak for God, a god, in touch with the divine - "religious"
  - Origin of their word: will of men, under Satan's delusions
  - Satan eagerly uses any **liar** to harm and murder people. John 8:44
  - There is no such thing as *harmless heresy*. Heresy harms!
    - Trusting a lie. Starves. Poisons. Insulting the Spirit. Changing Jesus.

- God himself will defend his Word - his reputation - his saving tool.
  - *...bringing swift destruction on themselves. <sup>2</sup>Many will follow their shameful ways and will bring the way of truth into disrepute. <sup>3</sup>In their greed these teachers will exploit you with stories they have made up. Their condemnation has long been hanging over them, and their destruction has not been sleeping.* 2 Peter 2:1-3
  - Critical. Only his Word saves - working faith - his passion. *Is it yours?*
- ❖ Each of us needs to consider: *How am I restraining God's Word?*
  - <sup>3</sup> *For though we live in the world, we do not wage war as the world does. <sup>4</sup>The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds. <sup>5</sup>We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.* 2 Cor 10
- Let's start with ourselves. 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.
  - Avoid private interpretation - arranging the word per our will.
    - Obedient to Scripture: let Scripture interpret Scripture.
    - Learn from the collective wisdom of those who do that.
- Be ready to humbly demolish foolish arguments to save lives.
  - Know the dismissive claim: *men wrote it... Changed by translation...*
  - Learn the Bible answers. Share - unleashing God's Word to work
- Chaining God's Word by failing to encourage and equip other believers
- Chaining God's Word by lukewarm support for ministerial education and mission support.
- Chaining God's Word, afraid I'll misspeak, remain silent vs. train to speak

Experience the enlightening, equipping character of the word. Experience its power in your heart and in your mouth.

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