

2 Peter 1:15-18

Witnesses of the Transfiguration

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Never forget

15 And I will also be diligent that at any time after my departure you will be able to call these things to mind.

- *diligent* – to hasten, to make haste¹
 - ▶ 1:5 – ...*applying all diligence*
 - ▶ 1:10 – ...*be all the more diligent...*
 - ▶ 2 Timothy 2:15 – *Be diligent to present yourself approved to God...*
- *departure*
 - ▶ 1:14 – ...*putting off of my body...*
 - ▶ 2 Timothy 4:6 – ...*time of my departure is at hand...*
- *call these things to mind* – a.k.a. remember them
 - ▶ or is this more than just remembering?
- It's almost as though our lives depends on these words

¹Blue Letter Bible (BLB)

Truth tellers

16 For we did not follow cleverly devised tales when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses of His majesty.

- *follow* – to follow out or up, tread in one's steps²
 - ▶ Used two other times in 2 Peter: 2:2 & 2:15
 - ▶ Big theme of 2 Peter: beware of false teachers
- *cleverly devised tales*
 - ▶ 1 Corinthians 1:17 – ...*not with cleverness of speech...*
 - ▶ 1 Timothy 1:4 – ...*[do not] pay attention to myths and endless genealogies...*
- Key question: how do we separate truth from myth?
 - ▶ In philosophy, this is called epistemology
 - ▶ This is not an easy question, but an important one

²BLB

The power and the glory

16 For we did not follow cleverly devised tales when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses of His majesty.

- *when we made known* – spoken as a teacher who unfolds divine things, to announce, declare, proclaim³
- *the power*
 - ▶ Acts 2:22 – ...a man attested to you by God with miracles...
- *coming* – can mean either presence or arrival
 - ▶ Works for either the first or second coming⁴
- *eyewitnesses of his majesty*
 - ▶ Refers (as we shall soon see) to Christ's transfiguration
 - ▶ Might also refer to his earthly ministry in general
 - ★ Luke 9:43 – ...they were amazed at the greatness⁵ of God...

³Zodhiates

⁴Context is more about the first, though

⁵i.e. majesty

The Transfiguration

17 For when He received honor and glory from God the Father, such an utterance as this was made to Him by the Majestic Glory, “This is My beloved Son with whom I am well-pleased”

- *when He received honor and glory from God the Father*
 - ▶ Event recorded in three gospel
 - ★ Matthew 17:1-6; Mark 9:2-8; Luke 9:28-36
 - ▶ Highlights of the event:
 - ★ His and garments shone⁶
 - ★ Moses and Elijah appeared and spoke with him
 - ★ A voice from heaven called out
- *such an utterance as this was made to Him by the Majestic Glory*
 - ▶ This “utterance” seemed to have the biggest impact on Peter
 - ▶ Key to the *power and coming* of Christ is his deity
 - ★ and the fact his actions pleased the Lord

⁶his face changing is always mentioned first

Seen and heard

18 we ourselves heard this utterance made from heaven when we were with Him on the holy mountain.

- we – James, John, and Peter
 - ▶ Jewish law required two or three witnesses
- *heard* – This was an actual voice, something they could hear
 - ▶ Just as he saw in vs.16
- *made from heaven* – no confusion as to where this voice originated⁷
- *when we were with Him* – they were physically present with Christ
- *on the holy mountain* – this occurred on the a physical structure
 - ▶ the holiness is the result of God's presence
 - ▶ recalls Moses and the burning bush
- How had Peter's reaction changed since the event?
 - ▶ His first inclination was to build a monument

⁷at least, in Peter's mind

What's it all mean?

- Placing this in context:
 - ▶ The transfiguration testifies to the power and glory of Christ
 - ▶ Peter's first-person testimony of it provides veracity to his instructions
 - ★ That is, we have all things necessary...(from vs.3)
 - ▶ Thus, Peter instructions are true an important
 - ★ Hence, the urgency with which he speaks
- Questions I still have:
 - ▶ Why does Peter use this as an example instead of the resurrection itself?
 - ▶ Why does Peter place more emphasis on the words the spoken than on the other evens
 - ★ He doesn't even mention Moses and Elijah here
 - ▶ What significance (if any) does the transfiguration have for us today?
 - ★ Other than establishing Peter's authority