

2009

Campbell Chapel Free  
Will Baptist Church

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# The Word of God is Sure *Bible*

**CAMPBELL CHAPEL FWBC - SERMON**

## The Word of God is Sure

November 22, 2009

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### II Peter 1:16-19

***16 For we have not followed cunningly devised fables, when we made known unto you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of his majesty.***

***17 For he received from God the Father honor and glory, when there came such a voice to him from the excellent glory, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.***

***18 And this voice which came from heaven we heard, when we were with him in the holy mount.***

***19 We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts:***

Peter, as we talked about this morning, in the book of I Peter, we know that he was talking about persecutions, fiery trials, and things that were about to take place unto the people that he was writing to. He was writing to people that were scattered all over the Roman Empire. Some had been scattered on their own accord and some had been misplaced, however, some had tried to escape the persecution but in I Peter, it says that fiery trials are going to come.

When we get to II Peter, the theme here is knowledge or “to know.” As we talked about this morning, the word know and knowledge is a great word. What he wants his listeners here to know is to know more about him, to have a more personal relationship with him. He wants them to have a relationship that was based on experience and participation with him. The reason that he wants them to know him or to have a working knowledge of him is because of the false teachers that were there in that area and becoming more prevalent all the time.

When Pentecost came, back in Acts 2, it was not long that God saves 3,000 and 5,000 and latterly thousands and thousands of people were being born again. God was saving them and the Apostles were preaching in different places. God was doing some great things. However, it did not take long for the enemy, satan, the devil to get upset. Do you know what he started doing? He also started calling people and putting people out there to discourage and tear down what the Apostles were doing. One of the things they were doing in trying to mislead people was saying, “If you want to follow this man called Jesus, that’s okay. If you want to say that, you are one of the Nazarenes that is okay. However, you need to do this and this and so forth.” Is it great to know tonight that we are free? Is it great to know that we have been set free by no other thing other than the blood of the Lord Jesus Christ? We have been saved by Grace through faith and that not of ourselves; it is a gift of God.

### ***Ephesians 2:9***

***9 Not of works, lest any man should boast.***

We have been saved by the power of Almighty God. We have been saved by faith.

As we read this morning, we looked down through here at these fifteen verses and talked about some things here that we needed to add to that. The foundation is **saving faith**, but there were some things that we needed to add to that. We read about those things. The reason that we need to have faith, virtue, temperance, love, and brotherly kindness; it is because that there is an enemy out there. When we know more about these things and know more about him then we are going to be aware of all the enemies that are out there all around us.

***16 For we have not followed cunningly devised fables, when we made known unto you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of his majesty.***

We have not been saved tonight because of some men's things that they have devised. We have not been saved that way. The church of Jesus Christ has not been founded upon some man-made doctrine. There might be some religions that have been founded by some men that decided they are going to do something. However, I am glad the church of Jesus Christ has a foundation that is sure and that is going to stand and it will stand through the test of all time.

***16 For we have not followed cunningly devised fables, when we made known unto you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of his majesty.***

Do you know what Peter is saying? He is saying, "Hey guys listen. We have not followed all these false teachers and all the things that they are trying to teach. We have not followed that." Do you know what "cunningly devised" means here? It means, "...artfully framed by human cleverness." We have many churches today that men have started. We have many churches today that have been cleverly framed by very smart men.

I am glad tonight that there is only one way to heaven. There is only one way that you and I are going to go and that is by and through Jesus Christ. That is the only way that we can there. It does not matter what church we belong to here. We might call ourselves Baptists, Catholic, or Holy Rollers. We can call ourselves what we want to but there is only one way and Jesus Christ is the way. There is no other way. He is not one of many ways. He is the only way. We need to remember that. Do not forget that because there are all kinds of clever people in this world. They have been very clever with what they have done. They have been artful in framing some things very cleverly. If you listen to some false teachers today, do you know what they will tell you? "If you want to believe in Jesus, that's okay. If you want to follow that route, that is okay. If you want to believe the blood and the blood for atonement, that is okay. However, we really need to this. Just be your own man. Just do what you really want to do."

If I did what I wanted to do, I would be a wild man and so would you. We would be out of control. I am glad today when we get saved, the Spirit of God moves in, we are baptized by one Spirit into the body of Christ, and He moves in on the inside. He throws the enemy that is sitting upon the throne of our hearts; He throws them on the outside and He moves in. We become brand new people. When we will follow Him and listen to His voice, He will tame us. We will not be out of control. If you are out of

control tonight, you might want to check yourself as to whether you are saved or not. If you are living for the world and doing everything you want to do all the time, if you are living and doing all the world is doing; then you may not be saved tonight. That is not a hard statement. Is it?

***16 For we have not followed cunningly devised fables, when we made known unto you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of his majesty.***

Here he says, "We have not followed men's artfully framed, clever devises. We have not followed them." I am glad for that. I am glad I know what is real.

***Matthew 17:1***

***And after six days Jesus taketh Peter, James, and John his brother, and bringeth them up into a high mountain apart,***

If you will read chapter 16, we know that they have been in Caesarea Philippi. They have been over there talking and doing some different things. Jesus told them that He was going to build a church. Do you remember that? He said, "Upon this church the gates of hell shall not prevail against it." He goes on and tells them some different things here. We know that He took five loaves and a few fishes and just fed thousands with it. A few days later, He takes Peter, James, and John and goes upon a high mountain. There is no doubt in my mind that He is on Mount Hermon over where Caesarea Philippi is. The Bible says, He goes up there and He was transfigured before them. Do you know what is going to happen here? On the mountaintop, Peter, James and John were there and the Bible says that He was transfigured before them. He was changed right before them. They were able to see Him as He is being changed.

***Matthew 17:2***

***2 And was transfigured before them: and his face did shine as the sun, and his raiment was white as the light.***

Do you know what is happening? The very presence of Almighty God, the very presence of who Jesus really is starts to shine forth and comes forth through the flesh. It is great to know tonight that we are following someone that is real, that is alive. These fellows were going to see the great power of Almighty God. When you look at the Old Testament, you go back and read back there. Do you know what appeared at the mercy seat? The Shekinah glory of Almighty God, the presence of Almighty God would come and was very visible. When Jesus was on the mountain this day, the very presence, the very essence of Almighty God is shining forth through Him. That is wonderful to think about. Would you have liked to have been there on that day? They saw that. They saw Jesus change. They saw Him transfigure; go from who He was and He began to shine. His clothes began to shine. There is no doubt in my mind that when they looked at Him, He was shining. Do you know why? It is because of what was on the inside started coming through to the outside.

As Christian people today, when we are saved, the Spirit of God moves in. The Holy Ghost moves in. Do you know what I am glad of tonight? I am glad of what is on the inside. It will manifest itself on the

outside. When people are saved today, they will act as they are saved. They will talk as they are saved. Do you know what we are not going to be doing? We are not going to be screaming, hollering, and cussing. We are not going to be stealing. We are not going to be committing adultery. We are not going to be doing those things because all those things are the work of the flesh. When you and I get saved the power of Almighty God and the presence of Almighty God will be manifest in our lives. If it is not, you might want to check to see where you are.

Jesus is real. Salvation is real. God is real.

**Matthew 17:2**

***And was transfigured before them: and his face did shine as the sun, and his raiment was white as the light.***

What was on the inside of Jesus was manifesting itself and coming through the flesh and these guys saw the very presence, the very essence of who Jesus Christ really was. That would have been a place to be. Would it not?

**Matthew 17:3**

***3 And, behold, there appeared unto them Moses and Elijah talking with him.***

When you go over in the book of Luke chapter 9, you will find out they were discussing things here with Jesus. When you look at Moses and Elijah; Moses represents the law and Elijah represents the prophet. When you get over in Luke 9, you will find out that they were talking about Jesus' exodus that was going to happen at Jerusalem. That is what they were talking about. Do you know what Jesus Christ came to do? The Bible says that He came to fulfill the law and all the prophets. Do you know what? There was not going to be one jot or one tittle of the law or the prophets that were not going to be fulfilled. They are talking here about His exodus. They are talking here about Him leaving, or about Him dying or leaving this earth.

I got to thinking today as I was reading that about Moses. God spoke to Moses. He sent Moses down into the land of Egypt. There was a bunch of people who had been there for 430 years. They had been down there in bondage. God sent Moses down to bring them out. God used Moses in a mighty way to have a great Exodus and they left Egypt. A great victory took place on that day.

Do you know what Jesus is going to do here in this story they are talking about? Just in a matter of days, He was going to die. It was not going to be a failure. It was going to be an Exodus. It was going to be a great victory. He was going to give great victory unto His people. Had He not died then I could not have victory tonight. Had He not died and arose from the dead then we could not have victory tonight. We could not have been delivered, but thank God, because He died, I have been delivered. Because He died, you have been delivered if you are saved tonight. A great victory happened when He died. It was not a defeat. It was a great victory.

**Matthew 17:4**

***Then answered Peter, and said unto Jesus, Lord, it is good for us to be here: if thou wilt, let us make here three tabernacles; one for thee, and one for Moses, and one for Elijah.***

Look what happens.

***Matthew 17:5***

***While he yet spake, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them: and behold a voice out of the cloud, which said, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased; hear ye him.***

Do you know what is taking place here? Peter said, "This is a great place to be. We are seeing the very presence, the very essence of Almighty God. We are having a great time here on the mountain. We will just stay up here. We will build three tabernacles. We build one for Moses, one for Elijah and Jesus we will build one for you. We will just stay on the mountain top and we will just be up here from now on." The Bible says that there was a bright cloud that overshadowed them. God the Father is speaking. Do you know what He says? He says, "This is my beloved Son. You hear Him." Moses was a great individual. The law was a great thing. Elijah was a great man. The prophets were something great. However, they are not any comparison to Jesus Christ. God the Father was not going to allow His Son to be put on the same level as the Law and the Prophets. Do you know why? It is because He is greater than the Law and the Prophets.

Do you know what we need to be doing today? We need to be listening to the voice of Jesus Christ. That is what God said. Is it not?

***Matthew 17:5***

***While he yet spake, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them: and behold a voice out of the cloud, which said, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased; hear ye him.***

***Matthew 17:6-8***

***6 And when the disciples heard it, they fell on their face, and were sore afraid.***

***7 And Jesus came and touched them, and said, Arise, and be not afraid.***

***8 And when they had lifted up their eyes, they saw no man, save Jesus only.***

Do you know what happens here? Jesus is transfigured before them. He is changed before them. What Peter is talking about is being able to see the great power that came when Jesus was transfigured before him on the mountain, on that day. He says, "Fellows, what I am telling is true and is genuine. What I am telling you about is something that is real." He goes on down through here and says, "We were eyewitnesses of these things."

***II Peter 1***

***17 For he received from God the Father honor and glory, when there came such a voice to him from the excellent glory, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.***

Do you know what happens? When God the Father says, "This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. Hear ye, Him." Do you know what God the Father was saying? He was saying, "This is my Son. You hear Him." He was giving Him honor. He was glorifying Him. Do you know why friend? It was going to be Him that was going to die on a cross. It was going to be Him that came here to do the Father's will. It was going to be Him that God said, "You are going to be the One that is going to redeem mankind through your death." It was through Jesus Christ and God was praising Him for what He was about to do. It is great we can do that.

There is a thought here. I said many things to get to this little thought.

***18 And this voice which came from heaven we heard, when we were with him in the holy mount.***

***19 We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts:***

When you read that, it may seem like something that is hard to understand. In my life and in your life, there are times when we are on the mountaintop. There are times when we are on a mountain that God is there in a great way. Everything is going just fine. The wife and the husband are getting along just fine. The kids are doing fine in school. We have a good job. Everything is going good. The house is all fine and bills are all paid up. The cat and the dog are getting along. We are getting along with our neighbors and it seems like everything is just going fine. We come to church and we are able to get up and sing praises to God. God comes down and blesses us. We go home and we read His Word. He blesses us. We get down on our knees. It is just as if He floods us with His presence. There is nothing like living like that. That is a great place to be.

Do you know what Peter wants to do here? He just wants to stay on the mountain with John and James. They are going to build three tabernacles and they are just going to camp out up there. However, life is not always like that. Life is more than just being on the mountaintop. I promise you there are going to be times we are going to be on the mountain top and I praise God for that but there are also going to be times when we are going to hit rock bottom. There are going to be times that even though I may be reading my Bible, studying, and praying. There are going to be times when I am going to feel all alone. There are going to be times when I feel like I do not have a friend in this world. There are going to be times when it feels like everybody that has ever loved me has forsaken me. There are going to be times like that in your life that are going to come.

I am glad that even though that is the case, even though that we are going to have times that we are going to down. We are not always going to be experiencing the great power of God in our lives. We are not always going to be able to experience His presence as we do sometimes. Even though that may be the case, we have something tonight that is more real than any emotional experience that we could ever have. Do you know that is? That is this Word (holding up the Bible) right here. Peter says, "Even though I heard His voice on the mountain, even though I saw Him transfigured before me, there is something more sure than that and that is this book; the Word of God.

When you are down, when you are out there is not anything that will stick to you, there is nothing that will strengthen you and bring you back to life like the Bible. Feeling good is great.

I like to feel good. However, feelings change. When I go home thirty minutes from now, I will not feel near as good as I feel now. We experienced great songs tonight. It was wonderful singing, wasn't it? There were wonderful testimonies and that makes us feel good. That is great! I like to feel good. Don't you? I like to presence of God in my life. He is real. If I did not experience that from time to time, if I did not experience "Him" from time to time; then do you know what I would do? I would check myself out and see whether I was saved or not. Check myself out and see if there was something that I need to repent of. Here is the thing. I am not always going to feel good. There are going to be things happen in my life. When issues with family, kids, job, some of you; I am not always going to feel good. You do not always feel good either because you have to deal with me.

Here is something that is more sure than a great service like this tonight, more sure than any emotional experience that we will ever have and that is this (holding up a Bible). Emotions change. Circumstances change. Feelings change. However, the Word of God does not change.

Do you know why I want you to read your Bible? It is because I know that there are going to be times in your life that you are going to hit rock bottom. I know that there are going to be times in your life when you do not have a job, when things are not going so good between husbands and wives, when the kids are sick, when the children are being disobedient, when you are not getting along with your neighbor; there are going to be times like that. It is great to go back to where you were saved and that is great. We need to do that from time to time. However, something more sure and a greater foundation than any emotional experience that you have ever had is this book.

Peter said, "Even though I saw the glory of God, even though I heard the voice of Almighty God speaking from heaven, saying, 'This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. Hear Him.' Even though I heard all that, we have a more sure Word of prophecy." Something greater than hearing the voice, something greater than all the emotional experiences that we have and that is this book, the Bible. When you are all down and out, when you feel like nobody loves you, when you feel like nobody cares about you, and many times in life that happens, (the sure foundation is the Bible). Sometimes, family forsakes you. Sometimes, husbands and wives forsake one another. Sometimes, children run off. Sometimes the bottom just falls out of everything. However, when that happens, the sure foundation is the Bible. The thing that we can stand on when people, when pastors, when religious leaders, when our government, when they all forsake us; we can depend on the Bible. This book (the Bible) is forever settled in heaven. It will never ever change. The thing that you and I need to get us through the times in my life and in your life...we all like to be blessed. We all like to shout. We all like to experience the great presence of Almighty God as Peter, James and John did.

Get this.

There are times like that in my life that is going to happen. We come to church. We are going down the road, maybe riding a Harley, or a rail buggy. What I am saying is that there are times in our life that we have great times with God—in the garage praying, out on the hill deer hunting, mowing grass, weed

eating there many places that we can have some great times with God. We have some wonderful times with God doing many things, because He is everywhere. He is where I am at because I am going to take Him with me. I determined a long time ago that I am not going to go anywhere that I cannot take Him with me. If I cannot take Him with me then I am not going to go there.

Life is going to bring some problems. You can count on that. We all want to be on a mountaintop. We all want to be in a place where we can praise God. We all want to be in a place that we can feel good. There is no doubt in my mind that Peter, James, and John were floating on the clouds. "We are right here on a mountain top. The presence of God is here in such a great way. We are hearing the voice of God the Father. We will just build everybody here a tabernacle and we will just stay here.

What we do not realize sometimes is this. Being in a place of blessing, or being where the glory of God is at, we do not understand sometimes that suffering, and glory goes together. Before Jesus Christ glorified, He was going to have to suffer. The Bible tells you and me that if we will suffer with Him; we can also reign with Him. There are going to be times in my life that I am going to be on the mountaintop. However, I promise you that for me to get there that there will be times of suffering. There are going to be times that we are going to pick up our cross, we are going to follow Him, and the cross is going to be heavy. People are going to forsake us. People are going to abandon us. People are going to talk about us. They are going to do many different things.

There is nothing any more sure than the foundation of the Word of God. Emotional experiences are great. I love to feel good. Something greater than all that and something that I can depend on more than all that is the Word of God.

You read it. You study it. You be obedient unto it and I promise you it will never let you down. Preachers, pastors will let you down. We fail. We mess up. We all do. Jesus Christ will never let you down. The Word from cover to cover is all about Him. Whether you read in Genesis or Revelation, it is all about Him. It will never let you down.

We forget that sometimes.

So many religions today are built upon emotion. Emotions are great, but we need more than emotions to be able to exist on planet earth.

***19 We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts:***

In other words, emotions are great. That is all good, great, and fine. However, we have a more sure word of prophecy that you need to take heed to.

***19 We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts:***

Pay attention to this. We may be having all kinds of issues today and all kinds of problems today but do you know what is going to happen if you continue to be faithful and you continue to be obedient unto

the Word of God; it may not end tomorrow. It may not end next week. It may not end next month. However, if you stand upon the Word of God, be obedient to the Word of God, and you live for the Lord then God will never leave you. He will never forsake you. He will be with you always even until the end.

If we have Him then what else do we need? If we have Him then we have peace. If we have Him then we have assurance. If we have Him then we have eternal life and what else more do we need. If we have Him then we have eternal life. Not “going” to have it; if I have Him today then I have eternal life today. That is wonderful to know.

Are you saved tonight?