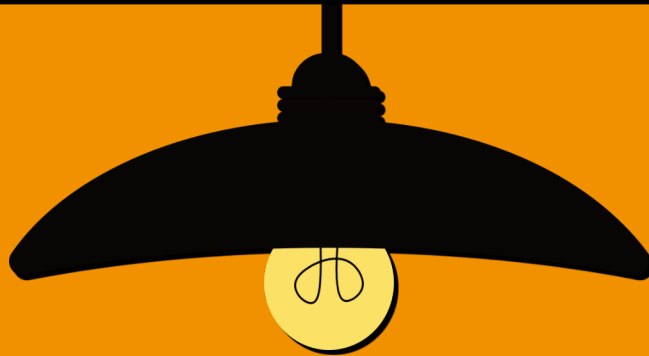


YOUR WORD IS ...

A LAMP TO MY FEET AND A BRIGHT, SHINING LIGHT TO MY PATH!



Your word is a LAMP
to my feet and a
LIGHT to my path.
(Psalm 119:105 ESV)

**AND WE HAVE THE PROPHETIC
WORD MORE FULLY CONFIRMED, TO
WHICH YOU WILL DO WELL TO PAY
ATTENTION AS TO A LAMP SHINING
IN A DARK PLACE, UNTIL THE DAY
DAWNS AND THE MORNING STAR
RISES IN YOUR HEARTS.**

(2 PETER 1:19 ESV)

For it is you who LIGHT
my LAMP; the LORD my
God LIGHTENS my
darkness.

(Psalm 18:28 ESV)

The unfolding of your
words gives LIGHT; it
imparts understanding
to the simple.

(Psalm 119:130 ESV)



For the
commandment is a
LAMP and the teaching
a LIGHT, and the
reproofs of discipline
are the way of LIFE.

(Proverbs 6:23 ESV)

OUTLINE ... (2 Peter 1:12-21 ESV)

1. **WE NEED TO BE REMINDED AND STIRRED UP:** Being reminded of the provision and promises of God and stirred up to action is absolutely essential for us to live godly lives, 1:12-15.

- (2 Peter 1:12-15 ESV) **Therefore** I intend always to remind you of these qualities, though you know them and are established in the truth that you have. 13 I think it right, as long as I am in this body, to stir you up by way of reminder, 14 since I know that the putting off of my body will be soon, as our Lord Jesus Christ made clear to me. 15 And I will make every effort so that after my departure you may be able at any time to recall these things.

Transition from verses 1-11 ...

Therefore ... since God has provided everything we need to be effective and fruitful in our knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ and to be assured in our relationship with Christ and to joyfully anticipate our welcome into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, then for us to live in fulfillment of God's provision and promises, we need to be stirred up and reminded of the absolute necessity of growing in our faith based on his provision and promises.

2. **WE MUST NOT FOLLOW MYTHS:** Following the truth of the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and not following myths is necessary for living a godly life, 1:16-18.

- (2 Peter 1:16-18 ESV) For we did not follow cleverly devised myths when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses of his majesty. 17 For when he received honor and glory from God the Father, and the voice was borne to him by the Majestic Glory, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased," 18 we ourselves heard this very voice borne from heaven, for we were with him on the holy mountain.

A. The apostles did not follow a cleverly devised myth or make up a clever story.

Myth—*μῦθος*—is a speech, a word, a saying; a narrative, story; a fiction, a fable; an invention, a falsehood.

****Kistemaker & Hendriksen ...

WHAT IS A MYTH? A myth is a story which man has formulated to express his own desires without any reference to reality. Because of its man-centered focus, a myth is devoid of redemptive power. By contrast, Scripture originates with God. The Bible is divinely inspired, rooted in history, and unquestionably true. [Kistemaker, S. J., & Hendriksen, W. (1953-2001). *Exposition of the Epistles of Peter and the Epistle of Jude* (Vol. 16, p. 265). Grand Rapids: Baker Book House.]

B. Quiz: Three questions concerning myths.

Q#1: Where do we find the first myth—the first clever story, alternate narrative or fictional account—in the Bible?

Q#2: Who was the source for the first myth?

Q#3: Who is the source for all myths?

C. The "story" the apostles followed was based on the majesty of our Lord Jesus Christ as he received honor and glory from God the Father—the Majestic Glory.

TRANSITION: So how do we follow the account of the apostles that is based on the majesty of our Lord and not fall prey to myths?

- (2 Peter 1:16 ESV) For we did not follow cleverly devised myths [NASB95—*cleverly devised tales*, NLT—*clever stories*] when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses of his majesty.

We need to learn to discern the nature of myths as contrasted with sound doctrine.

- i. Myths lead to meaningless speculation that hinders us from living for God.
 - (1 Timothy 1:3 ESV) As I urged you when I was going to Macedonia, remain at Ephesus so that you may charge certain persons not to teach any different doctrine.
 - (1 Timothy 1:4 NLT) Don't let them waste their time in endless discussion of myths and spiritual pedigrees. These things only lead to meaningless speculations, which don't help people live a life of faith in God.

- (1 Timothy 4:7 NLT) Do not waste time arguing over godless ideas and old wives' tales. Instead, train yourself to be godly.
- ii. Myths not only lead to meaningless speculation that hinders us from living for God but they turn people away from truth.
 - (Titus 1:13–14 ESV) This testimony is true. Therefore rebuke them sharply, that they may be sound in the faith, 14 not devoting themselves to Jewish myths and the commands of people who turn away from the truth.
- iii. Myths are the “quick fix” for people who refuse to endure sound teaching.
 - (2 Timothy 4:3–4 ESV) For the time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching, but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions, 4 and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander off into myths.

3. WE NEED TO FIRMLY HOLD TO THE ONE LIGHT THAT PIERCES THE DARKNESS: We must be passionate in paying attention to the word of God as to a lamp shining in a dark place as the only way to separate ourselves from myths and for the second coming of Christ to become a living reality in our lives, 1:19-21.

- (2 Peter 1:19–21 ESV) And we have the prophetic word more fully confirmed, to which you will do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts, 20 knowing this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture comes from someone's own interpretation. 21 For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.

A. The word of God is the ONLY word that is utterly reliable.

It is more fully confirmed through the fulfillment of Old Testaments prophecies, fulfillment through the life of Christ and the eyewitness accounts of the apostles.

B. The word of God provides the ONLY light that allows us to see through this dark place—life on Earth—to the coming day of the LORD.

- (Psalm 119:105 ESV) Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.
- (Psalm 119:130 ESV) The unfolding of your words gives light; it imparts understanding to the simple.
- (Psalm 18:28 ESV) For it is you who light my lamp; the LORD my God lightens my darkness.
- (Proverbs 6:23 ESV) For the commandment is a lamp and the teaching a light, and the reproofs of discipline are the way of life.

*******Griffin Thomas ...** The word translated dark is literally “dry” or “squalid” and **gives the idea of a light revealing the dirt and filth of sin. This is the actual state of the world. We see also what Peter thought of prophecy—a light in the middle of squalor. This is always the character and power of Scripture.** [Thomas, G. (1999). *2 Peter. In 1, 2 Peter* (p. 270). Wheaton, IL: Crossway Books.]

C. The word of God is the ONLY light that endures forever.

- (Psalm 119:89 ESV) Forever, O LORD, your word is firmly fixed in the heavens.
- (Psalm 119:160 ESV) The sum of your word is truth, and every one of your righteous rules endures forever.
- (Isaiah 40:7–8 ESV) The grass withers, the flower fades when the breath of the LORD blows on it; surely the people are grass. 8 The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever.

D. We need to give such passionate attention to the word of God as a lamp shining in a dark place that the Day of the Lord becomes a living reality in our hearts and minds.

- (2 Peter 1:19 ESV) And we have the prophetic word more fully confirmed, to which you will do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts.
- i. “Until the day dawns” is referring to the day of the Lord.

- (Isaiah 13:6 ESV) Wail, for the day of the LORD is near; as destruction from the Almighty it will come!
- (Joel 1:15 ESV) Alas for the day! For the day of the LORD is near, and as destruction from the Almighty it comes.
- (Obadiah 15 ESV) For the day of the LORD is near upon all the nations. As you have done, it shall be done to you; your deeds shall return on your own head.
- (Luke 21:27 ESV) And then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory.
- (1 Thessalonians 5:2–3 ESV) For you yourselves are fully aware that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. 3 While people are saying, “There is peace and security,” then sudden destruction will come upon them as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and they will not escape.
- (2 Thessalonians 1:7–10 ESV) And to grant relief to you who are afflicted as well as to us, when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with his mighty angels 8 in flaming fire, inflicting vengeance on those who do not know God and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. 9 They will suffer the punishment of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of his might, 10 when he comes on that day

to be glorified in his saints, and to be marveled at among all who have believed, because our testimony to you was believed.

- (2 Peter 3:10 ESV) But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a roar, and the heavenly bodies will be burned up and dissolved, and the earth and the works that are done on it will be exposed.

ii. **A vision of the coming Day of the Lord is the bright, shining light for the path of the faithful sojourner.**

Only when ... the Day of the Lord becomes a living reality in our hearts and minds will the shadows and myths of this dark, murky world be vanquished from our minds and hearts.

Only in ... the brilliant light of the power and coming of our Lord will we have gospel clarity and Holy Spirit firmness knowing that no teaching of Scripture comes from someone’s own interpretation.

Only as ... we give passionate, intense attention to the word of God as a lamp shining in a dark place will we know that no prophecy ... no foretelling or forthtelling of the word of God ... has its origin in the will of any human ... again including you and me.

- (2 Peter 1:19 ESV) And we have the prophetic word more fully confirmed, to which you will do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts.

- (Isaiah 50:11 NLT) **But watch out, you who live in your own light and warm yourselves by your own fires. This is the reward you will receive from me: You will soon fall down in great torment.**

There is great danger in choosing our version of reality as opposed to submitting to the word of God. Many people encourage themselves and others with these myths. But the reality of God's judgment comes to all.