

Study Notes based on Sunday 25 November 2018

Learning from Disciples – Peter (Sue Fensome)

2 Peter 1:16-21

1. Sue suggested that Peter was conscious of an impending martyrdom, therefore 2 Peter is effectively his final message to the church. (see vv 12- 14) How did Peter know he was to be martyred? See John 21:18-19.
2. Peter makes a back reference to the transfiguration as evidence of the truth of his message about Jesus. He was there, we weren't. Discuss the importance of personal experience of Jesus when presenting our faith to others. How do you respond if your personal testimony is challenged or ridiculed? Or if someone says, that's all fine for you, but my experience is different.
3. What do you think v19 means – the word of the prophets made more certain? Could we say that from where we sit in history the words of the prophets are made even more certain? Why?
4. Sue cited the arguments for the truth of the resurrection as a helpful device for contending for the faith. Which of these three – personal testimony, fulfilment of prophecy, or argument for the resurrection, have you found most helpful in conversations with not yet Christians?
5. What do we learn about false teachers from ch2 vv1-15; 10b -12 and 17-19?
6. What do we learn about their fate 2;1-3; 13?
7. How do you react to the increased severity of judgment for those who have known 'the way of righteousness'?
8. Many who we would identify as false teachers today, do not fit the descriptions in this chapter. On the contrary they are moral, clean living, family orientated. Is this more or less dangerous than the flagrantly sinful false teachers of 2 Peter 2? How then do we identify false teachers today?
9. The third part of Peter's 'last word' relates to 'the Day of the Lord' see 3:vv10-13. Reflect on the balance between destruction and hope. In particular, how does v13 tie in with what we have usually been taught about the future?
10. How should we live in the light of 'the day of the Lord.'? (3:12,14)
11. What do you think the reference in 3:12 to speeding the coming of the day of God means?
12. What is Peter's desire for those who read this letter 3: 17-18.

