***2 Peter 1:16-19 For we did not follow cunningly devised fables when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of His majesty. 17For He received from God the Father honor and glory when such a voice came to Him from the Excellent Glory: “This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.” 18And we heard this voice which came from heaven when we were with Him on the holy mountain. 19And so we have the prophetic word confirmed, which you do well to heed as a light that shines in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts.***

We’re back with Peter this morning. Recall with me that, at this time, Peter is in his mid-60’s living in Rome, about 30 years after he saw Jesus ascend into heaven. There is a great persecution happening, Christian’s are being hunted and killed, blamed for the ills happening in the Roman empire and hated by unbelievers all around them. As we learned last week, into this persecution, the Apostle Peter speaks encouragement through this letter to believers.

Peter saw things. In Matthew 14:28, we witness the Faith of Peter, as he climbs out of the boat and walks on the water. He, James, and John were the inner circle, allowed to witness such things as the raising of Jairus’ daughter from the dead, found in Luke 8:51-55 *When He came into the house, He permitted no one to go in except Peter, James, and John, and the father and mother of the girl. Now all wept and mourned for her; but He said, “Do not weep; she is not dead, but sleeping.” And they ridiculed Him, knowing that she was dead. But He put them all outside, took her by the hand and called, saying, “Little girl arise.” Then her spirit returned, and she arose immediately. And He commanded that she be given something to eat.* Peter walking on water, watching the dead come back to life, talking with the Savior daily – this is the voice speaking to the early Christian’s and to us this morning. We do very well to listen closely.

Verse 16 *For we did not follow cunningly devised fables when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of His majesty.*In these times, non-believers made up all kinds of tales and drew people to believe them. Like our culture today, the people not rooted in a strong understanding of God were easily led away and deceived. In Acts 5, we find Gamaliel speaking of Theudas and Judas, both men that led people astray and it all came to nothing. No, these are no cunning fables, but Truth men are willing to die for! Peter was an eyewitness to the Transfiguration in Matthew 17:1-5 *Now after six days Jesus took Peter, James, and John his brother, led them up on a high mountain by themselves; and He was transfigured before them. His face shone like the sun, and His clothes became as white as the light. And behold, Moses and Elijah appeared to them, talking with Him. Then Peter answered and said to Jesus, “Lord, it is good for us to be here; if You wish, let us make here three tabernacles: one for You, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.” While he was still speaking, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them; and suddenly a voice came out of the cloud, saying, “This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. Hear Him!”* No my friends, we don’t follow cunningly devised fables. We believe the Truth of Almighty God, rooted in thousands of years of Prophecy, verifiable through our own study, dependable to the end.

Verses 17-18 *For He received from God the Father honor and glory when such a voice came to Him from the Excellent Glory: “This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.” 18And we heard this voice which came from heaven when we were with Him on the holy mountain.*Peter recounts the words heard from heaven. Eyewitness to a glimpse of the Kingdom! We too are to be eyewitnesses to the works Christ is doing in our lives. Books are fine, podcasts are great, but there is nothing like the excitement of a Christian witnessing about miracles God has done in their life. Discipling others must come with a healthy dose of sharing. If, in this life, we can’t be excited for all the goodness God is doing, how can we expect others to want what they see in us? It’s part of our calling to speak with excitement about the One that changed our lives eternally.

Verse 19 *And so we have the prophetic word confirmed, which you do well to heed as a light that shines in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts.* Jesus fulfilled over 300 Old Testament prophecies. Not vague prophecies, specific prophecies. Specific about where He’d be born, how He’d be born, how He’d die, and that He’d rise again. Mathematician Peter Stoner calculate the odds of Jesus fulfilling just 8 to be 1 in 100 quintillion. He equates it to covering the state of Texas two feet deep in silver dollars, with one silver dollar being marked, and having a blindfolded man choose the marked coin. Jesus fulfilled at least 300. Prophetic word confirmed. Revelation 22:16 *I, Jesus, have sent My angel to testify to you these things in the churches. I am the Root and the Offspring of David, the Bright and Morning Star.* We take heed until the morning star, Jesus Christ, rises in our hearts. Let’s be a shining light in the darkness for all to see.

This week, let’s be about the Father’s business.. Let’s share with others the things Christ is doing in our lives. Be ready always to give a good report of scripture to those seeking God through His Son. We too are eyewitnesses to the Glory of God. We do well to let our light so shine before men, that they may see our good works and glorify our Father in Heaven.