**Faith Foundations 2022-2023**

**The Catholic Epistles, Part 2**

**Session 2—2 Peter 1:12-21**

**In our previous session, we heard from Peter how necessary it is for Christians to pursue godliness so that they remain strong in their faith until the end. In the second half of this chapter of 2 Peter, he reminds his readers about the sole authoritative source from which Christians derive their teachings. One could be the most morally upright person in the world, but if he did not believe the true doctrine, then he would only be righteous outwardly. Faith in Christ is ultimately what saves us, and so we need to know what exactly it is that we believe if we wish to be righteous in the sight of God and to inherit eternal life.**

**Read 2 Peter 1:12-15. Why does Peter feel it necessary to continue to remind his readers of the godly qualities they ought to pursue?**

**What will Peter’s reminders do for those who read his epistle, even after his death? How do his words in verse 15 still ring true today?**

**Read 2 Peter 1:16-18. How does Peter contrast his own knowledge of Jesus Christ with “cleverly devised myths?”**

**To what event does Peter refer in verses 17-18? Read Matthew 17:1-8 for the story.**

**What did the event mentioned in verses 17-18 show Peter and the other two disciples?**

**Read 2 Peter 1:19-21. What is even “more sure” than the Transfiguration for telling us who Jesus is?**

**What should be our attitude toward the Word of God?**

**What metaphor does Peter use to describe the Scriptures in verse 19? Why is this metaphor appropriate?**

**What does Peter stress about the origin of the Scriptures?**

**What do these verses teach us about the role of the Scriptures in the church?**

**How does this passage from 2 Peter contradict the teachings of liberal theology about the origin and authority of the Scriptures?**

**Only the Holy Scriptures, the written Word of God, serve as the inerrant, authoritative teachings of God’s church. All Christian doctrine must be derived from them, and anyone who teaches contrary to them must be rejected, no matter how learned or respected they may be. As the old song goes, “The B-I-B-L-E: yes, that’s the book for me!”**

**Next week, we will see how Peter continues this train of thought as he contrasts the authoritative prophecies of Scripture with the false teachings of heretics.**