

2 Peter Series

Lesson #031

March 5, 2020

Dean Bible Ministries

www.deanbibleministries.org

© 2020, Dr. Robert L. Dean, Jr.

**The Tyranny of Relativism
The Freedom of Absolute Truth
2 Peter 1:16–21**



2nd PETER

Guard Against False Teachers

2 Pet. 1:12, “Therefore, I will not neglect to remind you constantly about these things even though you have known them and have been made stable by means of THE truth [*en-by means of*] that you now have [or THE PRESENT TRUTH].” ~RD

Truth vs. Relativism

John 8:32, “And you shall know THE TRUTH, and THE TRUTH shall make you free.”

John 14:17, “the Spirit of THE TRUTH, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you.”

John 15:26, “But when the Helper comes, whom I shall send to you from the Father, the Spirit of THE TRUTH who proceeds from the Father, He will testify of Me.”

John 16:13, “However, when He, the Spirit of THE TRUTH, has come, He will guide you into all THE TRUTH; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come.”

John 17:17, “Sanctify them by Your THE TRUTH. Your word is TRUTH.”

John 17:19, “And for their sakes I sanctify Myself, that they also may be sanctified by means of TRUTH.”

2 Pet. 1:16, “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.”

How Do We Know it is True?

- 1. Because it is the revealed (prophetic) Word of God.**
- 2. Because it was confirmed through what they saw and heard (empiricism—their experience).**

TRUTH vs. Myth

Revelation

1. Originates from the One, TRUE Living God.
“voice from heaven,” 1:17
not “from the will of man,”
1:21
Holy Spirit moved, 1:20
2. Objective light, 1:19
3. Confirmatory evidence
which conforms to
revelation, 1:17–18
4. Linear

Myth

1. Originates from human
thought, fantasy, legends
2. Irrational concepts, “true
myth,” factitious
3. Polytheistic instead of
monotheistic
4. Cyclical, not linear

TRUTH vs. Myth

Revelation may be confirmed by evidence, i.e., what is seen and heard.

**Experience is evaluated by revelation;
Revelation is not evaluated or interpreted on the basis of experience.**

Biblical TRUTH is never in a vacuum; when God speaks or acts, it is confirmed through evidence.

Key Areas of Thought

- 1. Ultimate reality (metaphysics):
metaphysical reality; reality is whatever
you want it to be.**

Rom. 1:18, “For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness,

Rom. 1:19, “because what may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown it to them.”

Rom. 1:20, “For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse,

Rom. 1:21, “because, although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened.

Rom. 1:22, “Professing to be wise, they became fools,”

Rom. 1:23, “and changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like corruptible man—and birds and four-footed animals and creeping things.

Rom. 1:24, “Therefore God also gave them up to uncleanness, in the lusts of their hearts, to dishonor their bodies among themselves,

Rom. 1:25, “who exchanged the truth of God for the lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen.”

Key Areas of Thought

- 1. Ultimate reality (metaphysics):
metaphysical reality; reality is whatever
you want it to be.**

**Metaphysical relativism, or reality
relativism**

Key Areas of Thought

2. Knowledge is unknowable, or everyone is entitled to their own set of “facts.”

Epistemological relativism; relativism of knowledge

I can be a girl today, a boy tomorrow, and anyone of 90 other invented genders whenever I want.

This destroys the possibility of knowing anything.

Key Areas of Thought

3. Ethical or moral relativism.

Everyone has their own set of rights and wrongs which can change daily.

Key Areas of Thought

4. Relativistic standards of beauty:

Beauty becomes totally subjective, no longer resident in divine standards of beauty.

Aesthetic relativism

What is the Result?

Relativists MUST hate and despise those who hold to the absolutes because they are truth suppressors.

What is the Result?

Relativists MUST hate and despise those who hold to the absolutes because they are truth suppressors.

The Tyranny of Relativism

Matt. 17:5, “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!’ ”

Matt. 3:17, “And suddenly a voice came from heaven, saying, ‘*This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.*’ ”

Psa. 2:7, “I will declare the decree: The LORD has said to Me, ‘*You are My Son, Today I have begotten You.*’ ”

Psa. 2:7, “I will declare the decree of the Lord: He said to Me, ‘*You are My Son, Today I have begotten You.*’ ”

ספר *saphar* piel

imperf 1 com sing

cohortativeB

**to count, relate; to
recount, or declare**

Psa. 2:7, “I will declare of the decree of the Lord: He said to Me, ‘*You are My Son, Today I have begotten You.*’ ”

2 Sam. 7:14, “I will be his Father, and he shall be My son.”

David was anointed in 1 Sam. 16:12–13.

Psa. 2:7, “I will surely tell of the decree of the Lord: He said to Me, ‘*You are My Son, Today I have begotten You.*’ ”

ספר *saphar* piel

imperf 1 com sing

cohortativeB

**to count, relate; to
recount, or declare**

חֹק *ḥōq*

ordinance,

statute, legal

document

יָלַד *yalad* qal* perf 1 com sing to bear,

beget; but here “declare your Sonship.”

The word should be understood as the

**causative *hiphel*, “You are my Son, this day
I have declared your Sonship.”**

2 Pet. 1:18, “And we heard this voice which came from heaven when we were with Him on the holy mountain.”

1 John 1:1, “That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, concerning the Word of life—

1 John 1:2, “the life was manifested, and we have seen, and bear witness, and declare to you that eternal life which was with the Father and was manifested to us—”

1 John 1:3, “that which we have seen and heard we declare to you, that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ.

1 John 1:4, “And these things we write to you that your joy may be full.”

2 Pet. 1:19, “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;”

**Mal. 4:2, “But to you who fear My name
The Sun of Righteousness shall arise with
healing in His wings; And you shall go out
and grow fat like stall-fed calves.”**

Morning Star

Num. 24:17, “I see Him, but not now; I behold Him, but not near; A Star shall come out of Jacob; A Scepter shall rise out of Israel, and batter the brow of Moab, and destroy all the sons of tumult.”

Luke 1:78, “Through the tender mercy of our God, with which the Dayspring from on high has visited us;” ~NKJV

Luke 1:78, “Because of our God’s merciful compassion, the Dawn from on high will visit us.” ~HCSB

**What the Bible Teaches
About
*Inspiration, Infallibility
Authority of Scripture***



2 Pet. 1:20, “knowing this first, that no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation,

2 Pet. 1:21, “for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit.”

2 Pet. 1:20, “knowing this first, that no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation,

2 Pet. 1:21, “for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit.”

**πρῶτος *prōtos*
first, prominent,
foundational**

2 Pet. 1:20, “knowing this first, that no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation,

2 Pet. 1:21, “for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit.”

Literally: Every prophecy of Scripture does not originate or derive or come into being from his own explanation/interpretation, i.e., from one’s own opinions.

2 Pet. 1:21, “for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit.”

φέρω *pherō*

aor pass indic 3

sing to bring,

carry

φέρω *pherō*

pres pass ptcp

instrumental

to bring, carry

2 Pet. 1:21, “for no prophecy was ever borne of human impulse; rather, men carried along by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.” ~NET

2 Pet. 1:21, “for no prophecy was ever carried along by the will of man, but men spoke from God when they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.” ~RD

2 Pet. 1:21, “for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit.”

**φέρω *pherō*
aor pass indic 3
sing to bring,
carry**

**φέρω *pherō*
pres pass ptcp
instrumental
to bring, carry**

Acts 27:17, “When they had taken it on board, they used cables to undergird the ship; and fearing lest they should run aground on the Syrtis Sands, they struck sail and so were driven.” [were carried along]