

message tie into 1 Peter 1:19-25. It is surely no accident that he puts so much stress on the Word. We are helped in giving it fuller attention when we consider the following items of thought.

A. God gave it --v. 21 the writers were moved by the Holy Spirit

This teaching is one of the most rejected by unbelievers whether in the "church" or out of it. The tendency is to want to make the Bible the work of men with no special help from a Deity. But on this point the Bible is very clear...the word did not originate with men but with God....much of it is so critical of human performance that men would hardly have dared to write it! 2 Timothy 3:14-16 is just one of the great texts on the subject and this passage in 2 Peter correlates perfectly. Details and mechanics are left to men (like verse divisions, chapter divisions, etc.) and they have enough difficulty agreeing on them. We cannot afford to neglect the Word of God....God gave it and to contradict, ignore or try to avoid the Word of God is an attempt to frustrate God Himself.

B. It must be studied as a whole --v. 20.

1 Corinthians 2:13 enunciates the reformation principle that Scripture interprets Scripture and that the Holy Spirit is the source of light in that direction. This is hardly the time for a course in basic hermeneutics although all Bible students need to work in that field at some time (the art or science of interpretation) There are also some things that are not perfectly clear and godly people have disagreed on them in all the ages of the church. A recognition of that keeps us humble, if nothing else. There is, therefore, a need for the systematic study of the Word of God and since we easily tire or anything that takes effort, not enough of us do it! The temptation to neglect the Word in the face of modern ideas and concepts is deadly, however, and we are warned against this problem in this passage.

C. We must, then, hear it---v. 19

In the darkness of our world the Scripture is a shining light and until the Lord comes and the great program is completed the Bible will be our source of authoritative belief and action. The words of Peter to the Lord Jesus in John 6:68 summarize