

SERIES:

SUBJECT: The Nature Of The Word Of God;

READING: Heb 4:12 For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

Introduction:

Someone once said that a person's love can be determined by the services he attends;

- Those who only attend Sunday morning love the church!
- Those who return Sunday evening love the preacher
- Those who make it back to Wednesday bible study love the Lord!

Be that as it may be every child of God must allow himself to regularly be examined by the word of God!

It is said that George Mueller pointed an unwavering finger to the source of his strength. Telling of his daily habit of having a quiet time with God in meditation upon the Word of God and in believing, simple, childlike prayer, he said, *"I have always considered it the first business of the day to get my own soul happy in the Lord."*

In chapter three the writer tells of the failure of an entire generation of Israelites to enter into the rest of the promised land. They he said fell short of that rest because of unbelief!

He then draws those Jews who in his present day had drawn close to the rest of being in Christ but were close to going back into Judaism for the same reason; they could not bring themselves to abandon the Law and by faith trust Christ!

Chapter four begins with a warning; Heb 4:1-2 **Let us therefore fear, lest, a promise being left us of entering into his rest, any of you should seem to come short of it. (2) For unto us was the gospel preached, as well as unto them: but the word preached did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in them that heard it.**

In verse 9 the writer sets before the readers the rest that comes from trusting Christ gained not by working hard at the things that Christians do like participating at the Lord's Table or shouting out his hallelujahs at the testimony meeting!

All though true emotions are come as gifts from a tender heart, they also can be carnal just as easily as spiritual.

People can see these external expressions of faith and believe that those weeping and glorifying are truly saved!

This passage of Hebrews concludes with a warning.

Heb 4:12-13 **For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart. (13) Neither is there any creature that is not manifest in his sight: but all things are naked and opened unto the eyes of him with whom we have to do.**

God's living Word must be the ultimate test of our profession of faith to others as well as to ourselves. We can so often overlook things we hold back on in Christ wanting to believe they are true when deep inside we fear they are not!

The Nature of God's Word is such that all pretense will be removed and the truth be laid bare!

- I. The first part of the Nature of God's Word is that it is alive;
For the word of God is quick;

- a. The word **quick** means alive; not just living apart from God but God truly lives in its words, pages, phrases!
 - i. Nothing will be missed!
 - ii. Nothing will be ignored!
 - iii. Every intimate part of our being pulses when the life of God is near!

- b. Knowledge of that which is alive does not make one alive!
 - i. A man may have a thorough grasp of Bible truth and be a walking encyclopedia of scriptural knowledge and yet not be spiritual.

 - ii. A person may have a strong will and determine that he is never going to indulge again in a questionable habit and carry out his resolve, but that does not prove him spiritual.

II. The second part of the word of God **powerful!**

- a. the Greek word is *energies*, meaning "energizing."
 - i. What it touches it also energizes; bring it to life!

 - ii. When the word is in the brain it can bring forth knowledge; when it's in the heart it brings the entire being to life!

 - iii. That is why those exposed to the word of God regularly are they are changed in their behavior and in their thinking!

- b. Its power also cannot be resisted! When one hears it he is moved by it! **He is drawn to it or runs away from it!**

III. Sharper than any two edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder!

- a. **Sharpened on both sides and comes to a point at the end!**
 - i. **Whatever direction it comes it is both dangerous and comforting!**
 - ii. **Its point pierces separating in the minutest way as a skilled brain surgeons knife!**
- b. Not everything we think about or do has the same value!
 - i. That is where the word of God can be the most beneficial!
 - ii. It is only the Word of God, brought to bear upon the issues of life, **soul and spirit**, which can reveal what is carnal and what is spiritual.
 - iii. The word of God can and does sort them out if you allow it to!
 - iv. Give yourselves to this word of God in the Bible.
 - v. Use it to know yourself and confirm your own spiritual life.

vi. **If there is life, there will be love and joy and a heart to obey the word.**

vii. Give yourself to this word so that your words become the word of God for others and reveal to them their own spiritual condition.

IV. It is a "discerner" (4:12), a critic of the thoughts and intents of the heart. As we read the Word of God, it probes into the inner recesses of our beings and explores all our motives.

a. The Word of God (both the written Word and the living Word, Jesus Christ) is a discerner!

i. This discernment, however, is more than just understanding or insight. The Greek word for "discerner" is *kritikos* and is used only this one time in the Bible.

ii. Our word "critic" is derived from it, and this is an important dimension of its meaning. Its discernment is a critical, judging discernment—one which convicts and corrects, as well as one which understands.

b. It is paradoxical that men today presume to become critics of the Bible when it should really be the other way around.

i. There are textual critics who sort through the various ancient manuscripts of the Bible, trying to arrive at the original text; there are the "higher critics" who critique vocabularies and concepts, trying to show

that the traditional authors did not actually write the books attributed to them;

- ii. and then there are many other purely destructive critics who criticize the Bible's miracles, morals, and everything else, hoping thereby to justify their rebellion against the Word.
- c. But the Bible still stands! It stands in judgment on our lives and our subconscious motives.
 - i. It will have the final word when “the books [are] opened . . . and the dead [are] judged out of those things which were written in the books” ([Revelation 20:12](#)).
 - ii. It is far better to heed the constructive criticism of the Word now than to hear its condemnation later.

V. (13) Neither is there any creature that is not manifest in his sight: but all things are naked and opened unto the eyes of him with whom we have to do.

- a. The word translated open had two distinct uses in ancient times.
 - i. It was used of a wrestler taking his opponent by the throat.
 - 1. In this position the two men were unavoidably face to face.
 - ii. The other use was in regard to a criminal trial.

1. A sharp dagger would be bound to the neck of the accused, with the point just below his chin, so that he could not bow his head, but had to face the court.
 2. Both uses had to do with grave face-to-face situations.
 3. When an unbeliever comes under the scrutiny of God's Word, he will be unavoidably face-to-face with the perfect truth about God and about himself.
- b. In light of such certain and perfect judgment how wonderful it would be to know that what God and His word reveals in the absolute and undeniable truth!
- c. How foolish would one be to harden his heart to God?