
Week 10 Sermon, October 22, 2023

Hebrews 4:12-13 – *God's Living and Active Word*

Discussion Questions

1. Before jumping into Hebrews 4:12-13, go back and reread some of the context informing these verses (Hebrews 2:1, 3:1, 3:12-13, 3:15, 3:19, 4:1, and 4:11). Verses 4:12-13 are directly connected to 4:11. How is striving in the faith integrally related to the Word of God?
 2. In 4:12, we read that "the word of God is living and active." In the Greek, the emphasis is on the word **living**. One meaning of this word is "**to offer life**." Read 1 Peter 1:23; James 1:18, 21; and Romans 10:17. How do these verses encourage you to share God's word in your evangelism to spiritually dead people? Share experiences where you have witnessed the Spirit of God empowering the Word of God in the lives of those who were lost.
 3. One fallacy unbelievers propose about Scripture is that it is outdated and not relevant anymore. However, if it **offers life**, the living word of God means that it is hardly outdated. Like God, His word is the same yesterday, today, and forever more. What verses, in addition to Isaiah 40:8, bring you assurance that God's word is as relevant today as when it was recorded? Think about how the living word ministers to you in your daily walk.
 4. Hebrews 4:12 says that God's word is *living and active*. The word *active* means effectual and comes from the Greek word from which we derive the word *energy*. God's word accomplishes all that He purposes (cf. Isaiah 55:11). How does this truth affect your desire to know God's word, both for your own sake, and for the sake of others?
 5. God's word is described as "sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow." Nothing remains untouched by Scripture. It reveals what is hidden and secret. John Owen said, "As a sword piercing into the soul, [the word of God] goes into the inner recesses, the secret rooms of the mind and heart. [It] penetrates people's hearts, minds, and souls, to discern and judge them." What are the effects of Scripture in the lives of believers and unbelievers?
 6. Like God Himself, His word discerns the thoughts and intentions of the heart. Read Hebrews 4:13. God's sees everything. Read Genesis 6:5, Jeremiah 17:10; 23:24; and Revelation 2:23. What comes to mind as you read these verses and consider the implications in your own life?
 7. God has given us His word as a means of grace to keep us from falling prey to unbelief. We are exhorted to not neglect God's word, to study it diligently and seek to obey it fervently. What are some ways we can encourage one another with reading, studying, meditating, and obeying God's word.?
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