

“The Word of God Is...!”

Hebrews 4:11-13

Intro. – Secure in the Tower of London lies the jeweled sword of state. Its beauty is enhanced with diamonds, sapphires, rubies and other precious stones. This valuable artifact has people standing in long lines just to get a glimpse of this sword.

Let me use this to introduce the idea that each of us has the privilege of holding in our hands a sword that is vastly more valuable than the jeweled sword of state: it is the Sword of the Spirit, the Word of God. The psalmist said the Word of God is perfect and to be desired more than gold (Psalm 19:9) Our text expands on this even more. In Hebrews 4:11 we find a succinct summary to all that has been covered in Hebrews 3:7-4:10. The writer of Hebrews says that we need to be diligent to enter *“the rest that remains”* i.e. our heavenly rest lest we fall short just as many Israelites fell short of their Canaan rest.

C. Spurgeon *“To me the Bible is not God, but it is God’s voice, and I do not hear it without awe.”* Our text stresses the need for diligence when it comes to the Word of God. That Word which provided the example of the Israelites’ disobedience is the same Word which is now warning you and me to not emulate the Israelites’ example. In this text, the Word of God is described in marvelous terms:

Purpose: to better understand just how significant the Word of God is

We live in a time in which God’s Word is often neglected, even by many immature Christians. Because of this there is an ever present need to review and grow in understanding the magnitude of God’s Word:

I The Word of God is PERMANENT

- Matthew 24:35 *“Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will not pass away.”*

A. Permanent in That it is LIVING

1. Isaiah 40:8 *“The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of God stands forever.”*
2. I.e. the Bible is the living word of God, not just a collection of dead letters.
 - commentator put it: *“It is endless in its significance and undiminished in its attractiveness.”*
3. Thus, the Bible is so timely, so necessary and so overwhelmingly alive, you and I never need be afraid that it will ever become extinct! The Word of God is LIVING!

B. Permanent in That it is ENDURING

1. The Bible as relevant today as was in the 1st century. It is applicable to Asians, Indians, Africans, Hispanics, and you/me. *“Red and yellow, black and white, they are precious in His sight!”*
2. In all ways, the Bible is accurate – it remains God’ final and complete revelation to man!
3. C. Spurgeon: *“How vain, as well as wicked, are all attempts to kill the gospel. Those who attempt (this) crime, in any fashion, will be for ever still beginning, and never coming near their end. They will be disappointed in all cases, whether they would slay it with persecution, smother it with worldliness, crush it with error, starve it with neglect, poison it with misrepresentation, or drown it with infidelity. While God (lives) His word shall live. Let us praise God for that.”*

C. Permanent in That it is ETERNAL

1. It should come as no surprise that His Word is like Jesus Himself – *“...the same yesterday, today and forever.”* (Hebrews 13:8)
2. 1 Peter 1:23-25 *“For you have been born again not of seed which is perishable but imperishable, that is, through the living and enduring word of God... But the word of the Lord endures forever. And this is the word which was preached to you.”*
3. Our eternal hope in Christ revolves around the fact that His Word is eternal!!

Thus, the permanency of God’s Word is one key area of why this book is unmatched by any other!

II The Word of God is POWERFUL

A. Powerful in That it Convicts and Converts

1. Isaiah 55:10-11 “*For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return there without watering the earth and making it bear and sprout, and furnishing seed to the sower and bread to the eater; so will My word be which goes forth from My mouth; it will not return to Me empty, without accomplishing what I desire, and without succeeding in the matter for which I sent it.*”
2. In other words, God has sent His word forth for a reason – to convict you and me of our need for a Savior (Jesus), to convict us that we are sinners deserving of the wages of those sins.
3. Jeremiah 23:29 “*Is not My word like fire? declares the Lord, and like a hammer which shatters a rock?*”
- word of God is powerful in the conversion of you and me – it reveals our need for a Savior, as well as, revealing Who that Savior alone can be!

B. Powerful in That it Corrects

1. God’s people need correcting constantly – His word is that source necessary for growing up.
2. Ira Progoft wrote: “God’s Word may be compared to a mirror. Spiritually, the eyes of the soul are our reason, our consciousness, is our face. And just as it is so that if we have a dirty spot on our physical face, our eyes cannot see that spot nor know where it is without a mirror or someone to tell us so; so it is spiritually in the same way that without reading or hearing God’s Word it is not possible for a soul to see the foul spot upon our consciousness.”
3. How we need to allow the Word of God to show us the areas of our lives that need to be corrected, changed and cleansed. – Psalm 119:105 “*Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.*”

C. Powerful in That it Comforts

1. Romans 15:4 “*For whatever was written was written in earlier times was written for our instruction, so that through perseverance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.*”
2. God has given His word to us to encourage, comfort and reassure us all leading to our hope in X!

With such a powerful word at our disposal, we would be foolish to neglect the blessings it offers or the warnings it gives! The power of this word comes from no One less than God Himself!

III The Word of God is Penetrating

A. Penetrating Like a Double Edged Sword

1. As alluded to above, this simply means the word of God can “cut both ways” – it can encourage and it certainly can condemn.
2. Put another way, the word of God is *cutting*. Any portion of God’s word is dangerous with which to play. Many have been *wounded* by the Scriptures who have played with it or who have sought to discredit it. The word of God has cut them open to view to themselves and others.
- Illus. – C. Spurgeon: “Depend upon it, there is not a superfluous verse in the Bible nor a chapter which is useless. Doctors say of certain drugs that they are *inert* – they have no effect upon the system one way or the other. Now, there is not an inert passage in the Scriptures.”

B. Penetrating by Piercing and Discerning

1. Piercing to the dividing of soul and spirit and joints and marrow – i.e. the divine word of God is able to *cut through* anything that is in mankind.
2. Discerning in that the word judges the thoughts and intentions of the heart – i.e. no one can read or hear the word of God without being affected.
 - a. Scripture sifts through and reveals the heart of each individual...
 - b. why many chose to ignore, refuse and even resent the Bible – it reveals the real individual!
3. Earlier in Hebrews we were warned about the danger of hardening our hearts (3:7-19). Our hearts can be hardened by the following:
 - a. the deceitfulness of sin – we get tripped up and deceived by Satan.. God’s word gives light to identify and avoid being “tripped up and deceived” – Psalm 119:25-32
 - b. disobedience – Bible directs and turns our hearts and eyes to God – Psalm 119:97-105
 - c. doubt – Scripture renews, strengthens, and sets our heart free from doubt – Psalm 119:25

- d. lack of discernment – Bible exposes our true selves, the real you and the real me. When we let the Spirit of God work on our lives through His Word, we then become the discerning individuals that we ought to be.

Conclusion: In summary, let me quote again C. Spurgeon – “When you have issued a new volume from the press – which you do every day, for every day is a new treatise from the press of life – take it to this great critic, and let the Word of God judge it.”

Certainly, if God’s word gives it approval to your life, you genuinely are approved. On the other hand if God’s word disapproves of your life, you are disapproved. Have you friends who praise you? They may in fact be your enemies in doing so. Have others attacked you and abused you in other ways? They may be right, they may be wrong, but above all let the Bible decide. In thirty plus years of preaching and teaching, I have learned this: if we can’t get to people through God’s truth, we cannot get to them at all!

The Word of God IS: *permanent, powerful, and penetrating*. Let the gospel of our Lord be your gospel and none but that. It will save and make you an instrument through which God will save others.

The B I B L E, yes that’s the book for me.
I stand alone on the Word of God, the B I B L E!