

Title: The Living Word of God

Scripture: Hebrews 12:1-13

Series: The Word of God

1. Introduction:

- a. The writer of Hebrews makes the case in Chapter 4 that there is the promise of rest still remaining for the Christian. This promise of rest for God's people is seen clearly in the creation narrative. It is in that narrative that we find a foreshadowing of eternal rest when God ceases to work on the seventh day.
 - i. Our portion of Scripture opens with this promise when in states in **Hebrews 4:1** Therefore, while the promise of entering his rest still stands, let us fear lest any of you should seem to have failed to reach it.
 - ii. The warning in this chapter is straightforward. It calls us to walk in a genuine faith lest we deceive ourselves and like Israel in the desert, fall due to unbelief.
 - iii. We are called to pay close attention to the message of Scripture, and to walk in obedience to it. This is how we prove that the word of God has had benefit in our lives.
 - iv. The author states simply in **Hebrews 4:11** Let us therefore strive to enter that rest, so that no one may fall by the same sort of disobedience.
 1. Here, purposeful and sustain disobedience is a telltale sign of a false confession.
- b. Commentary:
 - i. The writer reminds the reader that God's Word cannot be taken lightly.
 - ii. The Bible demands a response, because God does not tolerate indifference and disobedience. If the reader does not listen to the Word of God, he will one day face God himself.
 1. The author warns his readers that there will be a dear price to pay for disobedience. **Hebrews 10:31** It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.
 2. This living God will judge the unbelief of disobedience. He will do so as a God of fire. **Hebrews 12:29** for our God is a consuming fire.
 - iii. The conclusion that the writer of Hebrews wants us to arrive to is that the Bible is not a collection of religious writings from the ancient past, but a book that speaks to all people everywhere in

nearly all the languages of the world. The Bible speaks to all generation in all times. With that thought in mind, let us look at the living word of God.

2. Verse 12: The Living Word: For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart.
 - a. The First characteristic of God's Word is that it is **living**. Beloved, the Word of God is alive! It is alive in the sense that it speaks to all no matter who they are, when they are, or where they are!
 - i. When Moses received the Word of God for Israel, he received the Word as a living entity. The bible states in **Acts 7:38** This is the one who was in the congregation in the wilderness with the angel who spoke to him at Mount Sinai, and with our fathers. He received living oracles to give to us.
 1. The Word of God is alive! It speaks with God's voice and His authority. It tells the truth about man and salvation. It is never wrong in its edicts, testimony, or truth telling.
 - ii. It is God's living Word that brings about the knowledge of Christ and of His salvation. The bible states in **1 Peter 1:23** since you have been born again, not of perishable seed but of imperishable, through the living and abiding word of God;
 1. The Bible reveals the Son of God. The Word of God made flesh.
 - b. A second characteristic is that the Word of God is **active**. That is, it is effective and powerful.
 - i. Active—**Greek** *energēs* (*en-er-gace'*)—Where we get our word, *energy*.
 - ii. God's Word, then, is energizing in its effect. It is effectual and has the power to accomplish the Lord's intended purpose
 1. God's spoken Word brought forth the beautiful creation.
 - a. All of God's creating is prefaced with the words, "And God said."
 2. God's Word recreates man that was dead in transgressions and sins. It is by His Word—his effectual call—that we are saved.
 - a. **Isaiah 55:11** so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty,

but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it.

- c. ...**sharper than any two-edged sword**: In the ancient world, the double-edged sword was the sharpest weapon available. In this verse, the author of Hebrews compares the Word of God to this very weapon.
- i. ...**sharper**: more cutting; cutting through with a single stroke.
 1. It gets to the issue immediately
 - ii. ...**two-edged**: sharpened at both edge and back. Its double power is emphasized.
 1. It cuts on both sides
 - iii. ...**piercing**: to reach through, to penetrate or pierce
 1. It goes through the object or person
 2. **Acts 2:37** Now when they heard this they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, “Brothers, what shall we do?”
 - iv. The symbolism conveys the message that God's judgment is stern, and righteous.
 - v. God has the ultimate power over his creatures; those who refuse to listen to his Word face judgment and death, while those who obey enter God's rest and have life eternal.
- d. How does it pierce? It ...**pierces to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart**:
- i. Nothing remains untouched by Scripture. Scripture addresses every aspect of man's life.
 - ii. **pierces to the division of soul and of spirit**: It pierces at the spiritual level.
 1. It show us our spiritual need. It shows us how spiritually bankrupt we are in the natural condition.
 2. The Word also shows the believer how spiritually rich he finds himself in Christ.
 - iii. ...**of joints and of marrow**: It pierces at the physical level.
 1. It speaks to us about this life. What this life is and what it should be.
 - iv. ...**discerning the thoughts**: It pierces at the mental level
 1. It speaks about he our thoughts. It tells us that our thoughts are laid bare before God.
 - v. ...**intentions of the heart**: It pierces at the emotional level

1. It exposes our attitudes. Men can be deceived but God is not. His word measures our attitude.
- vi. Consider what Scripture says about the Words of Christ:
 1. **John 12:46-48** I have come into the world as light, so that whoever believes in me may not remain in darkness. (47) If anyone hears my words and does not keep them, I do not judge him; for I did not come to judge the world but to save the world. (48) The one who rejects me and does not receive my words has a judge; the word that I have spoken will judge him on the last day.
3. Verse 13: Man Cannot Hide from God or His Word: And no creature is hidden from his sight, but all are naked and exposed to the eyes of him to whom we must give account.
 - a. The emphasis in our passage shifts from the Word of God to God himself.
 - b. **And no creature is hidden from his sight**:
 - i. God gave us His word and His Word uncovers everything. Therefore we must understand that God knows all things. It is therefore impossible for man to hide his sinful motives in the dark corners of his heart. God knows. He sees everything
 1. **Psalms 139:11-12** If I say, “Surely the darkness shall cover me, and the light about me be night,” (12) even the darkness is not dark to you; the night is bright as the day, for darkness is as light with you.
 - ii. No creature is hidden from God's sight, because with God everything is light—there is no darkness.
 1. The Word states in **1 John 1:5-6** This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all. (6) If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth.
 2. Man, the pinnacle of God's creation, is invited to walk in that light, so that he may see clearly.
 - a. **Psalms 119:105** Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.
 - b. **John 8:12** Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me

will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.”

- c. **...but all are naked and exposed to the eyes of him:** The unbeliever seeks to hide from God but is unable to do so
 - i. **Jeremiah 23:23-24** “Am I a God at hand, declares the LORD, and not a God far away? (24) Can a man hide himself in secret places so that I cannot see him? declares the LORD. Do I not fill heaven and earth? declares the LORD.
 - ii. **Revelation 6:15-17** Then the kings of the earth and the great ones and the generals and the rich and the powerful, and everyone, slave and free, hid themselves in the caves and among the rocks of the mountains, (16) calling to the mountains and rocks, “Fall on us and hide us from the face of him who is seated on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb, (17) for the great day of their wrath has come, and who can stand?”
 - iii. Remember Psalm 139’s question. Where shall I go from the presence of God?
 - d. **...to whom we must give account:**
 - i. **Romans 14:11-12** for it is written, “As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God.” (12) So then each of us will give an account of himself to God.
4. Benediction:
- a. **1 John 1:5-6** This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all. (6) If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth.

Public Reading of Scripture
1 John 1