

The Sword of God

Ephesians 6:10-20

We need to remember that our Savior is redeeming the universe. He is the Lord over all principalities and powers. The whole creation groans for redemption. And Jesus is the sum of all things.

He came to rescue the fallen city of Mansoul, and with the salvation of the children of God, the whole earth will be freed from its bondage to the curse.

We are want to come today to another message from the Armory before coming back to Romans.

Paul tells us to take up the Sword the Spirit, the Word of God.

This sword is what Satan fears the most. Jesus needed only quote the Word to defeat the wicked one!

“A pilot without his chart, a scholar without his book, and a soldier without his sword, are alike ridiculous.” (William Gurnall)

What is the Christian without the Bible?

Behold first what this Sword is! It is the Sword of the Spirit!

What can go to the heart, to the depths, like the living and active Word of God?

- This sword of the Spirit is mighty, where the flesh is weak
- The Spirit in and by the Word is life, but the Letter kills, and is death.

- The heart of man is darkness and in death. The Word is God's thoughts, God's heart opened, and they are ways of light, of life, of love.

The phrase, "sword **OF** the Spirit" is instructive. The Bible alone, the Word of God, is the product **of** the Holy Spirit of God. All Scripture is 'God-breathed.'

Holy men of old spoke, not according to their own ideas or inspiration, but as the Holy Spirit bore them alone, they spoke and wrote.

Further, "the Spirit searches all things, even the depths of God."

God the Holy Spirit brought forth from the divine depths, the revealed truth and will of God – His verbal communication of the mind and desire of God Himself.

It is the Word FROM God and not from man; not discovered by man, but given from on high.

Do you not know that God's Word is an extension of Himself! There is no knowing God himself apart from knowing God's Word.

The spiritual man is brought to lay hold of the Word. Or better, this sword is not so much held by us as we are held by it.

Imagine a sword that could fight its own battles. Imagine a weapon that always made its own perfect and pointed strokes. All you had to do was to hold on for the ride.

This is where the metaphor breaks down. A human sword is passive. The Word of God is anything but passive – it is active, it is living, it is

sovereign. We cannot manipulate the Word of God. We do not place the Word of God beneath us, to be man-handled and gripped however we want. No – we are gripped, held, captivated, and controlled by the Word of God!

We must add here the spiritual effects of this Sword of swords. What sword gives life? What sword saves by its point and blade?

No doubt – this sword slices and slays men in their sins. The Word of God lays man low. To use another metaphor, the Word is like a hammer and a fire, crushing and melting.

But it does so to raise man up, to make us whole, to give us life everlasting. Peter who saw first hand the might of the Spirit of Christ on Pentecost, wrote: “But the Word of the Lord endures forever and this is the word which was preached to you.” “This is the Word by which you have been born again!” (1 Peter)

It is spiritual in its origin, in its use, and its effects. Only people of the Word can say that they have been born of the Spirit as opposed to being born of the flesh.

Dear one, what should your response be? Our attitude to the precious Word of God should be one of humble and deep admiration. There is none like it.

But more. We add our attitude should be one of trust and confidence in the Scriptures. It is a more sure Word, than anything else in all creation. “Heaven and earth will pass away, but My word will not pass away.”

There is the strongest connection between this book and all the powers of God! The same voice that speaks here in a gentle whisper, commanded the universe to come into being from nothing!

The same voice that talks to us here, humbly and face to face, is the same voice that upholds and keeps and guides all the world by the Word of his power!

And the same voice that promises eternal life to those who believe, and assures of total and eternal suffering away from the presence of the Lord, will one day thunder with the trump of God and bring judgment and make all things new!

This speaks to the enduring nature of this Sword-Word!

Hammer away, ye hostile hands; your hammers break, God's anvil stand!

The Book of books demands to be central in your life. It should be thoroughly and well-gripped by the hand of your soul. It is not some toy or momentary pastime to be played with.

Having seen how the Bible is the Word of God and of the Spirit, why is it here likened to a sword?

No doubt, for its sharpness, to cut through all of the nonsense, deceit, falsehoods in our world.

This sword conquered the Roman Empire, upon the floor of the Coliseum, but not by shutting the mouth of the lions, but triumphing over death itself!

It is this sword Luther lifted at the Diet of Worms, and challenged the entire world – both pope and prince – “Here I stand. I can do no other. God help me. Amen.”

It was this sword unsheathed in the Great Awakenings of this nation, that has brought such blessing in every direction.

There is no other sword to be used by the Christian or by the Church than this.

Sadly, brethren, there are those who go forth against the evil one with lesser swords. What plastic or wooden or tinfoil swords do false religion use!

Will we really trust our precious and eternal soul to another foundation than the Word of God?

How then are we take this sword as good soldiers of JC?

First, study the Bible.

The Bible talks to us so as to be understood.

Charles Simeon, a man greatly used of God to send missionaries in the 19th century, gives us four qualities to note of the ‘sharpness’ of the Word of God to our minds:

1. Its clear directives – as opposed to mystical haziness.

2. Its powerful motives – as opposed to something which is merely appended to life: it is your very life! (Dt. 32:46, 47)
3. Its rich encouragements – as opposed to only a rigid moral code to be followed
4. Its instructive examples – God has put His precepts, not only in stone and ink, but in flesh and clothes.

“The captain of salvation set the example, and once and again, and a third time, did He repel the assault of the prince of darkness by three brief and simple citations from Scripture. Diplomacy and argument, truce and armistice, are of no avail – the keen bright sword of the Spirit must be unsheathed and lifted.” p. 473

Study the Bible with your minds. Humility is demonstrated by being teachable.

Secondly, believe the Bible with your heart.

“Faith comes by hearing...”

The aim of Scripture is for you not only to know or understand what it says, but to really believe it, to rely upon it, to rest in it.

“Believe God’s Word and Will rather than your own thoughts and feelings.” Samuel Rutherford

Are you warmed by the Word? Are you as sponges, thrilled by it, drinking it in?

Then, **third**, confess and walk in the Word. This is what we are seeing in Romans 15.

Let the Bible fill your lips and your life – as you are going out and as you are coming in.

The people of God are a confessional people. We can and are to articulate what we believe.

‘Out of the abundance of the heart, the mouth speaks.’

There is a visibility to the faith and to the church.

Matthew 10:32-34 ³² "Therefore everyone who confesses Me before men, I will also confess him before My Father who is in heaven. ³³ "But whoever denies Me before men, I will also deny him before My Father who is in heaven. ³⁴ "Do not think that I came to bring peace on the earth; I did not come to bring peace, but a sword.

So live out the Word in your life, your home, your work, your play, your economics, your politics, your all, is to be ‘Biblical’.

To be conformed to your living God, your resurrected Savior, is to be conformed to the Word of God – nothing less, nothing more, nothing else.

Be a Bible man or woman, a Bible girl or boy. So, you will be a weapon, a sword yourselves, to the world around you.

Charles Hodge wrote:

“All [the Church’s] triumphs over sin and error have been effected by the Word of God. So long as she uses this and relies on it alone, she goes on conquering; but when anything else, be it reason, science, tradition, or the commandments of men, is

allowed to take its place or to share its office, then the church, or the Christian, is at the mercy of the adversary.” (Charles Hodge)

The Bible is our sword, both authoritative in all that it speaks, and sufficiently speaking to all things.

Let us do battle in the Lord’s way, using his word faithfully, for the Word will never fail. Amen.