

Hebrews 4:11-13

The Living Word

Our diligence is offered as a wrapper in this passage. It is the starting and the ending point of the writer's message. He begins by telling us to be diligent to enter the rest offered - we considered the irony of working to rest last week. But the real meat of this passage comes in this second part, the reason WHY we must be so very careful to enter the promised rest. It is because of the Word of God. Everything, and I mean everything has been given to us that is needful for our salvation and entrance into Glory. For the likeness of Christ to be formed in us, and for the hope of His rest to be a real and honest expectation in our hearts. We do not need to be unsure of our eternal home, of our eternal destination. We can KNOW, we can be prepared for what is coming.

I. DILIGENT BECAUSE OF THE WORD.

- a. The passage hinges on this word "for" it means because and it is the word of underlying reason.

Of motive, or purpose. It is the answer to the why questions of life. Here is the thing that everyone wants to know. Why does it matter how I live my life? Why does it matter if I sin as a Christian, or, for that matter, why should I even *consider* becoming one? Why can I not simply live my life and then at the end God and I will sit down over coffee and we'll come to some sort of understanding and all will be well. - the answer is this. THE WORD of God. God has already told you everything for which He is going to hold you accountable. He has already given you everything you need to know.

- b. The tools have been given
 - i. He does not leave us wallowing in the darkness grasping and groping for the light, seeking to do our best, but not really understanding just what is going on.
 - ii. He has sent His prophets to speak to us
 - iii. He has written down His simple instructions, offered us His overarching structure of 10 commandments, bound them together with 2

simple summary statements and then lest we miss all that, He tied up the whole thing and put flesh on it, giving us His Living Word, His Son, Jesus

II. THE WORD, AND THE WORD –

Both are intended. The Word of God incarnate, and the Word of God inspired. For what is true of one is also true of the other.

- a. the written word the Bible - there is a unique power in the word of God, the Bible. It is unlike any other book. Every other book will eventually pale and grow tiresome. Even the most excellently written works will eventually lose their shine. And to seek to spend your whole life studying any other book would be wearisome indeed. But the Bible, has something that no other book does. It conveys life, and it IS alive in some sense that we cannot ever fully understand. It houses the living thoughts and message of God Himself to His creation. And its characteristics make it incredibly effective to

accomplish the impossible task of communicating the ineffable and impossible truths of God's infinite wisdom to us, weak and broken vessels incapable of grasping even its most basic truths.

- i. Divine - it does not have human authorship. It is written by God.

2 Peter 1.19-21

- ii. Living - this book conveys new meaning to us every time we open it. For it is imbued with the very life of God. It is deserving of honor, and it is worthy of our time and attention.

- iii. Powerful -

Isaiah 55.8-9

- iv. Effective -

Isaiah 55.10-11

- v. Sufficient - it is enough...

2 Timothy 3:16-17

- vi. Cutting - all of our defenses are laid bare, all of our efforts to keep God at bay will fail...
- vii. Discerning, and Discovering - there is nothing hidden, when we read it, our consciences are also at work within us convicting us of that which the Word is showing... there is no place to hide from it...
- viii. Piercing - the word is no claymore, it is the rapier of God's perfect knowledge. He KNOWS everything and His Word is not showing Him our secrets, it is showing them to US!
- ix. Revealing –
 - 1.Thoughts –
 - a. things we won't even admit to ourselves,
 - b. things we have forgotten,
 - c. things we have tried to bury and hide

2.Intent

here is something that we all need help with. Our motives are always deceptive, even to, or perhaps especially to, ourselves. For we don't see ourselves clearly, and when we do, we are most likely to give ourselves a "by", to overlook "just this once" to consider the "extenuating circumstances" and to understand why "its just not our fault." The Word of God puts an end to all of that and causes us to see our true intentions... and the experience is seldom pleasant.

- b. The spoken Word, the Son - every single thing we say about the written Word of God can be said in spades about the Spoken Word, the final Word, Jesus.
 - i. He is Divine, God made flesh, He is the incarnate Word of God and the second person of the Godhead. He is not OF Divine authorship, He IS the divine author!

John 1:14
Hebrews 1.1-3
John 12.47-50

- ii. Living - He lived, He died, He rose and He lives forevermore. Always living to make intercession for us, to speak to us, to be our mediator

- iii. Powerful - nothing is impossible for Him
 - 1. He raised the dead
 - 2. Healed the leper
 - 3. Cast out demons
 - 4. Gave sight to the blind, ears to the deaf
 - 5. Walked on the water
 - 6. Fed thousands with a small boys lunch
 - 7. Nothing is denied Him that He ever asked.

- iv. Discerning - He knew the hearts of men –

Matthew 9.4
Mark 12.15
Luke 11.17

Luke 22.47

John 13.3

John 18.4

John 19.28

- v. It can drive into the deepest and most secret places of our –
- 1.minds and hearts - dragging out that which we want to remain hidden
 - 2.Soul and spirit - the Word of God brings our pretenses about our goodness to a head and our attempts at self-righteousness die writhing in the light of His countenance
 - 3.Joints and marrow - life itself becomes all about Him. There is no life where He is not. And wherever He is we live, even though we die...

John 11.25-26

III. NO PLACE TO HIDE

- a. One day we will give a full account to God - there is no place to hide.

2 Corinthians 5.9-11

Philippians 2:5-11

- b. Therefore is our diligence commanded. Here is the full circle aspect of the passage. You have been given everything needful to be accountable, God has shown you every single thing which He requires of you. Even before Jesus came He has shown us...

Micah 6.6-8

- c. But our problem is that we cannot do even THAT small expression of the life that God calls us to live. We are too far gone. But God, in giving the Son, completed the work He began and gives us a way that also calls us to life. The written word of God reveals our failure, shows us our hearts and the picture is not pretty. But the incarnate Word

of God, took our failures to the cross and left them there marked paid in full.

Colossians 2.11-14

d. In the person of Jesus Christ the Word of God fully accomplishes ALL that He intended for it, for Jesus through His Spirit calls us to Himself, imparting His own life unto us and washing us with the water of His Word, cleansing us in the flood of His own shed blood, and making us Sons and daughters according to His own good pleasure. So in truth, there is ONE place to hide, it is in the shadow of the cross of Jesus and in the cleansing stream of His redeeming blood. So, in a sense, the Word, hides us from the word... and God judges us accordingly. For those found in Christ, there is the promise of eternal life purchased by His death, for those outside of Jesus there is only judgement, harsh and severe according to the Word of God. You will one day be judged according to the Word, but the important question is this: which Word will be your judge...