

"God's Powerful Word"
Hebrews 4:9-13
3-12-17 Sun AM

The passage begins in vs. 9-11 telling us that we need to be diligent to enter "the rest that remains," our heavenly rest. We don't want to fall short of our rest as many Israelites did in the wilderness.

To stress this diligence we are reminded about God's powerful Word. In this passage the Word of God is described as quick [living], powerful, sharper than a two-edged sword...(12).

TT- Note the nature of the Word of God:

I. The Word of God is Quick and Powerful (v. 12).

1. Quick or Living (12a).

This book is not a dead book for the living but a living book for the dead! It gives life to those dead spiritually.

I Peter 1:23-25, "Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever. (24) For all flesh is as grass, and all the glory of man as the flower of grass. The grass withereth, and the flower thereof falleth away: (25) But the word of the Lord endureth for ever. And this is the word which by the gospel is preached unto you."

The life in God's Word from a God who is alive. God is eternal and cannot lie and will never perish.

John 6:63, "It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life.

2. Powerful (v. 12b).

We know God's Word is alive because it is seen in it's power. It is an operative or effectual Word.

(1) The Word will accomplish what God intends (Isaiah 55:10-11).

(2). The Gospel is the power of God unto salvation (Rom. 1:16-17).

(3). The word works effectively in those who believe and equips us for holiness and service (2 Tim. 3:16-17).

The word of God is not a dead book but a living book because of its power to change and transform.

II. The Word of God is Sharp and a Discerner (v. 12c-13).

1. Sharp (v. 12c).

The Word is described as a "sword." It can pierce even to the division of soul and spirit and the joints and marrow.

Lightfoot said "The divine word is able to cut through everything that is in man."

2. Discerner (v. 12d-13).

Because it is sharp it sifts through and reveals the heart of man. One cannot hear or read the Word of God without being cut.

Because God is omniscient his word is omniscient. He knows all and there is no creature hidden from his sight, but all things are naked and open in his sight.

That means that no one can hide from the incarnate and written Word of God (v. 13).

There is a judgment Day coming in which God will judge the world by the standard of his Son and his words as revealed in this book.

Con: How dare we take the Word lightly and its warnings (2:1-3). Let me share this Puritan's about the Bible.