



Message Notes

The Blessed Blade

Hebrews 4:11-16

Key Verse (12)

Introduction: A collector of old books ran into an acquaintance of his who had just thrown away an old Bible that had been in his family for generations. He happened to mention that Guten-somebody had printed it. "What? Not GUTENBERG?" gasped the book collector. "Why, yes, I THINK that was the name," said his acquaintance. "You IDIOT!" said the book collector. "You've thrown away one of the first books ever printed! Last year they auctioned one for one-and-a-half million dollars!" "Nah!" said his acquaintance. "THIS one wouldn't have been worth a cent! Some fool by the name of Martin Luther had scribbled all over the margins!" For many the Bible is just an old book to collect dust on a shelf, press flowers with, or collect obituaries and wedding clippings in – but the Bible is so much more

I. It is the Word of the Sovereign

A. The peculiarity of the Word – (unique, one of a kind, singular)

Martin Luther, hundreds of years ago, said, "The Bible is alive, it speaks to me; it has feet, it runs after me; it has hands, it lays hold on me." – copied

1 Peter 1:22-23 *“Since you have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit in sincere love of the brethren, love one another fervently with a pure heart, having been born again, not of corruptible*

*seed but incorruptible, through the word of God which **lives** and abides forever.”*

The Bible is alive. The Bible is not just a story about things that happened to the nation of Israel thousands of years ago. It is not a collection of myths and legends. It is not outdated, passé, archaic, or irrelevant. The Bible is living and active and has important relevance for us today.

Hebrews 4; 12 – *“For the Word of God is quick (zao - to live, breathe, be among the living, not lifeless, not dead)*

2 Timothy 3:16-17 *“All Scripture is given by **inspiration** of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.”*

B. The potency of the Word - powerful (energes - active) from which we get our word energy.

Romans 1:16 *“For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God unto salvation.....”*

Out of the words known to man, there is nothing more powerful than the Word of God. Philosophy with its unending questions, fails in comparison to the Word of God. Science with its concepts and fundamental beliefs, does not measure up to the Word of God. If you take all the prominent speakers for all the ages, and compare what they have said to what God has said, their words are hollow and superficial. There has never been an individual or group; whose word carries more weight, for it is by His word “that the worlds were framed.” His word has the power to change men’s lives, lift up bowed heads, and sooth us in moments of misery. His word teaches how to live rightly and serves as a rebuke when we do not. There are no words spoken that have such power. By the power of God’s word sinners are transformed into saints. The disobedient become victorious disciples. The Word of God is the power that unlocks a sin hardened heart.

- His word is the foundation for our faith.
- His word is bread for the hungry.
- His word is water to the thirsty.

- His word is comfort for the lonely.
- His word gives hope to the hopeless.
- His word gives rest to the weary. - copied

II. It is the Sword of the Spirit

A. Notice the precision of the Word of God.

The Bible is described in verse 12 as being sharper than any two-edged sword made and honed by man. The word for sharper (tomoteros) is a comparative word indicating the ability to cut, more comprehensively or decisively with a single stroke than with repeated blows or hacking. God's Word strikes with surgical precision. It has the ability to deliver the right message in just the right place at the right time through the Holy Spirit's power.

Have you ever wondered how a sermon or a Sunday school lesson can be so fitted to what you are experiencing? You may even think that someone has talked to them and given them some inside information about you. The truth is that it isn't the teacher or the preacher. It's the Word of God empowered by the Spirit of God, delivering the right message at the right place at right the time.

According to Matthew Henry, the Bible is like a double-edged sword because, "it subdues and mortifies evil desires and blasphemous thoughts as they rise within; and answers unbelief and error as they assault from without. A single text, well understood, and rightly applied, at once destroys a temptation or an objection, and subdues the most formidable adversary." - copied

Ephesians 6:16 *"above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one."*

Romans 10:17 *"So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God."*

B. Notice the penetration of the Word of God.

“piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow”

The word penetrates to the inmost recesses of our spiritual being as a sword cuts through the joints and marrow of the body.

Certainly, there is some distinction between soul and spirit. “The New Testament use of *pneuma* for the human spirit focuses on the spiritual aspect of man, i.e. his life in relation to God, whereas *psyche* refers to man’s life irrespective of his spiritual experience, i.e. his life in relation to himself, his emotions and thought.” (Guthrie)

The Bible pierces deep. The Bible pierces right to the heart. It reveals God’s will, as opposed to mine.”

Illustration: Some thirty years ago there resided in one of the Temples of Thibet a Buddhist priest who had conversed with no Christian missionary, had heard nothing about the cross of Christ, and had never seen a copy of the Word of God. One day while searching for something in the temple, he came across a transcription of Matthew’s Gospel, which years before had been left there by a native who had received it from some traveling missionary. His curiosity aroused, the Buddhist priest commenced to read it, but when he reached the eighth verse in the fifth chapter he paused and pondered over it: "Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God." Although he knew nothing about the righteousness of his Maker, although he was quite ignorant concerning the demands of God’s holiness, yet he was there and then convicted of his sins, and a work of Divine grace commenced in his soul. Month after month went by and each day he said to himself, "I shall never see God, for I am impure in heart." Slowly but surely the work of the Holy Spirit deepened within him until he saw himself as a lost sinner; vile, guilty, and undone. After continuing for more than a year in this miserable condition the priest one day heard that a "foreign devil" was visiting a town nearby and selling books which spoke about God. The same night the Buddhist priest fled from the temple and journeyed to the town where the missionary was residing. On reaching his destination he sought out the missionary and at once said to him, "Is it true that only those who are pure in heart will see God?" "Yes," replied the missionary, "but the same Book which tells you that, also tells you how you may obtain a pure heart,"

and then he talked to him about our Lord's atoning work and how that "the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin." Quickly the light of God flooded the soul of the Buddhist priest and he found the peace which "passes all understanding." Now what other book in the world outside of the Bible, contains a sentence or even a chapter which, without the aid of any human commentator, is capable of convincing and convicting a heathen that he is a lost sinner? – copied

Psalm 19:7-11 *"The law of the Lord is perfect, converting the soul; The testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple; the statutes of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the Lord is pure, enlightening the eyes; the fear of the Lord is clean, enduring forever; The judgments of the Lord are true and righteous altogether. More to be desired are they than gold, yea, than much fine gold; sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb. Moreover by them Your servant is warned, and in keeping them there is great reward."*

John Piper – "The Word is the basis for your hearing Him and for His hearing you. The depth and solidity and certainty of your walk with God and your communion with God will rise and fall with whether God's own written Word is the warp and woof of the fabric of your fellowship."

C. Notice the perception of the Word of God.

God's word is *"...a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart."*

Discerner = critic. The Bible critiques or judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart. The Word of God gets right to the heart of the matter.

An African woman was asked if she enjoyed reading her new Bible. She replied, "Sir, I am not reading this Book. The Book is reading me!" – copied

1 Chronicles 28:9 *"...for the Lord searches all hearts and understands all the intent of the thoughts."*

Someone has said that the inner life of the believer is often a strange mixture of motivations both genuinely spiritual and completely human. The "thoughts" are the inner reasoning; the "intents" are the inner purposes and

designs. The Bible exposes our real motives, emotions, and thoughts. It brings us face to face with reality.

When we are exposed by God's Word we have a choice to make at that moment – to follow our thinking and intentions or God's intentions. - copied

Verse 13 states *“No creature is hidden from Him, but all things are naked and exposed to the eyes of Him to whom we must give an account.”* (HCSB) He sees our hearts and knows how to touch them with His Word, and we must give account for how we respond to His touch and His Word.

One night a physician went to hear D.L. Moody. Although he had no thought of such a result, he was converted. He testified, "I went to hear Mr. Moody with no other idea than to have something to laugh at. I knew he wasn't a scholar, and I felt sure I could find many flaws in his argument. But I couldn't get at the man. He stood there hiding behind the Bible, and fired one verse after another at me till they went home to my heart straight as bullets from a rifle." – copied

A. There Is No Escape.

We want God to see us when we are hurting and when we are going through difficult times. We want Him to see and come to our aid. But when it comes to our sin and wrongdoing we would rather that God looked the other way. But verse twelve concludes by saying that the Word of God "... is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart." The word "discerner" (kritikos) is the word from which we get critic. As the word of God penetrates into the innermost recesses of man's being it does so as his critic or judge.

B. There Is No Exemption.

Only the Word of God is capable of exposing the thoughts and attitudes of a single human heart. There really is no use in hiding. Why is it when we fear that some-thing is not quite right physically we tend to put off going to the doctor because we fear we will hear bad news. The same is true spiritually. Verse thirteen says that before God "**all things** are naked" or literally "laid bare." The word (tetrachelismena) literally refers to bending someone's

neck backward so the face is looking upwards. It is a vivid term describing either the grip of a wrestler on the neck of his opponent or the grip on the neck of a sacrificial victim prepared for sacrifice. And sometimes it was used to describe how a man being led to execution had a knife placed beneath his chin so that he could not hang his head in shame and those avoid the gaze of the onlookers. Whatever the exact nature of the picture that is being drawn here it means that to be in the grip of an all powerful God is to be vulnerable, helpless and to have all our secrets known.

C. There Is No Excuse.

The last part of verse thirteen says, all things are "... open to the eyes of Him to whom we must give account." This verse plainly tells us that there is a coming day of reckoning upon which we will each give an account for our lives. The day of excuses will be over, the book of Romans tells us there is coming a time "when every mouth will be stopped" (Rom 3:19), there will be no more excuses. The Apostle Paul warns in 2 Cor. 5:10, "For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ that each may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad."

III. It is the Way to the Savior

A. He is the Word

John 1:1, 10-12, *"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not, He came unto his own, and his own received him not. But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name."*

John 3:14-21 "14 And as [Moses](#) lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up:

15 That whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life.

16 For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

17 For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved.

18 He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.

19 And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil.

20 For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reprov'd.

21 But he that doeth truth cometh to the light, that his deeds may be made manifest, that they are wrought in God.

B. He is the Way

John 14:6 *“Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life; no man cometh unto the Father, but by me...”*

Illustration: One of the most dramatic examples of the Bible’s divine ability to transform men and women involved the famous mutiny on the “Bounty.” Following their rebellion against the notorious Captain Bligh, nine mutineers, along with the Tahitian men and women who accompanied them, found their way to Pitcairn Island, a tiny dot in the South Pacific only two miles long and a mile wide. Ten years later, drink and fighting had left only one man alive—John Adams. Eleven women and 23 children made up the rest of the Island’s population. So far this is the familiar story made famous in the book and motion picture. But the rest of the story is even more remarkable. About this time, Adams came across the “Bounty’s” Bible in the bottom of an old chest. He began to read it, and the divine power of God’s Word reached into the heart of that hardened murderer on a tiny volcanic speck in the vast Pacific Ocean—and changed his life forever. The peace and love that Adams found in the Bible entirely replaced the old life of quarreling, brawling, and liquor. He began to teach the children from the Bible until every person on the island had experienced the same amazing change that he had found. Today, with a population of slightly less than 100, nearly every person on Pitcairn Island is a Christian. [Signs of the Times, August, 1988, p. 5. - www.bible.org/illus/Bible (changes it makes)]

