

9

THE POWER OF GOD'S WORD

Hebrews 4:12-13

Intro: "I did nothing. The word did everything."

I. The Problem: We Are in Danger of Not Believing God's Word

- A. God's Word Offered Salvation and Rest for the Israelites
 - o The whole book of Hebrews is about God's Word! "Long ago, God spoke..." (Heb 1:1)
 - o Also God's word come through Psalm 95 (Heb 3:7-11) which contained an invitation to enter God's "rest" and be saved
- B. But, the Israelites did not believe God's Word
 - o "They [the Israelites] were unable to enter because of unbelief" (Heb 3:19)
 - o What are some reasons that we doubt God's word?
- C. The author of Hebrews encourage us to not make the same mistake
 - o "Let us therefore strive to enter that rest, so that no one may fall by the same sort of disobedience" (4:11)

***Key point: Our eternal salvation is dependent upon believing God as he speaks in his Word.*

II. The Solution: Realize Why You Should Trust God's Word

- A. God's Word is Personal: "living"
 - o The Bible is not like other books because it is empowered by the Holy Spirit.
 - o This means that God is present in his Word—we meet him, learn from him, and fellowship with him there.
 - John Frame (RTS professor): "When we encounter the word of God, we encounter God...His word, indeed, is his personal presence. Whenever God's Word is spoken, read, or heard, God himself is there."
 - o Implications:
 - If God is present in his word, then it must be true because God doesn't lie!



- If God is in present in his word, then statements like "I want Jesus but not the Bible" simply don't work. They cannot be separated. To reject God' word is to reject God.

***Key point: Bible isn't a stale, dead book, just full of facts. We meet the living God there!*

B. God's Word is Powerful: "active"

- o The Greek word for "active" (ἐνεργής) can also be translated "powerful"
 - Thus, God accomplishes things by his word. His word does things.
 - What are some powerful things that God had done by his Word?
- o Thus, God's word is powerful enough to accomplish everything we need
 - "All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work." (2Ti 3:16-17 ESV)
 - Are you tempted to give up on the word and turn to other things?

C. God' Word is Penetrating: "Sharper than a double-edged sword"

- o God's word is specifically designed to reach people's hearts
 - A "double-edged sword" refers to the well-known Roman short sword
 - God's word pierces deep into our souls: "to the division of soul and spirit, joints and marrow"
- o What does God's word do once in gets "inside" us?
 - It exposes who we really are: "discerning the thoughts and attitudes of the heart" (v.12)
 - There's no hiding from God's word: "no creature is hidden from his sight" (v.13)
 - **The word not only reveals God to us, but reveals us to God!

Key point: the word exposes the things inside of us that deceive us and harden us and keep us from believing; and it surgically removes them.



Discussion Groups

1. In what ways are you being tempted to doubt the truth of God's word today? Or in what ways have you questioned its power?

2. How should we study the Bible differently given that it manifests the "living" presence of God himself? How might this change the way we hear preaching from the Bible?

3. What are some steps you can take in 2018 to make sure you are learning, receiving, and listening to God's word?

