

## ***We Believe***

### **The Bible**

Hebrews 4:12-13

November 12, 2017 am

HDBC

This is part 2 in the services, ***We Believe***. Exploring what we believe about nine theological subjects. Contrary to what many believe in this permissive culture . . . what you believe about God and the things He has revealed, are important. In other words, ***Theology Matters***. Because it matters I want us to make sure that what we believe is grounded in truth revealed by God.

**We study** these things not for intellectual knowledge but for the practical difference it makes in our lives. What we believe will dictate what **we do**, how **we think** and how **we view the world**. You can tell what a person thinks by watching what they do, what they say and how they react. Thoughts precede action. **Theology Matters!**

**Today**, what we believe about the Bible. Here is our simple statement on the Bible.

The Bible is God's Word to all people. It was written by human authors under the supernatural guidance of the Holy Spirit. It is the absolute source of truth for Christian beliefs and living. It is inerrant and infallible, completely without error and trustworthy.

**Pastor's realize** the difficulty of motivating people to read their Bibles. It is something most of us struggle with. We intend to do better, but struggle to follow through. **Too many of us are like the kamikaze pilot who flew 17 missions**. He had good intentions, but not committed to the plan! Have you ever just wished the Bible could be more exciting? Imagine a brainstorming session to accomplish that! Skit Guys.

### **Play Video – The Bible (Skit Guys)**

More important than what the skit guys say, let's see what the Bible says about itself.

### **Read the Text: Hebrews 4:12-13**

Note three things in the text

## 1. Nature of the Bible (12a)

This text offers three descriptive words that help us understand the nature of the Bible. It is *living* and *active*.

### A. Living

In what way is the Bible a living book? What does that mean?

#### 1) It lives because it lasts forever. Psalm 119:89

*Forever, O LORD, Your word is settled in heaven.*

**It is not a dead book.** It transcends cultures and generations. It was relevant in its day and is relevant today. For all cultures. It is not a static book that can become obsolete and outdated. It will last forever.

#### 2) It lives because it is spoken from a living being. 2 Tim. 3:16

*All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.*

**It is the very breath of God.** That is what that little phrase, *inspired by God* means. The words of the Bible are the very words of God. God is alive today. The Bible is not simply the written words of someone who lived long ago and has died. The Bible is living because its author is living!

#### 3) It lives because it brings spiritual life. 1 Peter 1:23

*Since you have been born again, not of perishable seed but of imperishable, through the living and abiding word of God;*

**Peter says** we have been *born again* and he clearly points to the Word of God as being an **agent of our salvation**. He likens it to a seed which is planted in our lives and grows to produce eternal fruit.

**The truth of God's word is taken by the Holy Spirit** and is used to convict a lost person of their sin and to point them to Jesus and salvation. That's why it is so important to encourage your lost friends to get under the preaching and teaching of the Bible. When a person is exposed to this truth, the Holy Spirit will use it to bring them to salvation.

## B. Active

It is active in the sense that it is effective. It vibrates with **active, effective power** as it changes lives and results in the fulfillment of God's purpose.

*So shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it. Isaiah 55:11*

It is the power of the Word of God that unleashed the Great Reformation. Martin Luther. Here are his words.

*I simply taught, preached, wrote God's Word: otherwise I did nothing . . . the Word so greatly weakened the papacy that never a Prince or Emperor inflicted such damage upon it, I did nothing. The Word did it all!*

**The Word** does what it promises to do. It breaks through barriers of race, culture, education. No part of humanity is immune from its power.

## 2. Power of the Bible (12b)

Now note two things the Bible does

### A. Pierces

*Sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and spirit, of joints and marrow.*

What a simple but clear picture of the nature of the Bible. It has the ability to **penetrate deeply and to cut in any direction**. The sharp edge can wound and kill. The word is powerful enough to wound our pride and to kill our sinful tendencies. But, like the sharp scalpel in the hand of a skillful surgeon it can bring healing and life.

**This is a poetic statement** about the power of God's word to pierce the human personality to its very depths. It moves beyond the surface and goes deep into our hearts, minds and emotions.

**When the Word** gets into our minds and hearts it works its way through any façade of religion. The word can cut through the hardest heart.

## B. Discerns

*And discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart.*

**Discerning** - Our word "critic" comes from this word. The word has the power to critic us at the very core of our being. The heart is the seat of the human personality. It is hidden from all, yet God's word finds its way there.

**We are handicapped** when it comes to discerning our own hearts and thoughts. We cannot adequately do that because we have a sin nature. We can easily trick ourselves. But the word sets us straight.

*All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness.*

**I was just a young boy** when I began to experience the surgical power of the two-edged sword that we call the Bible. Because my parents were believers and had a conviction that the best place to be on Sunday mornings and nights was church, I experienced a steady diet of the Word.

**Then when I was nine** years old the word began to cut deeper than it had ever cut before. It went past the skin and bones and pierced by soul. I came to realize that I was lost and needed a savior. I made what I hoped was a soul-saving decision to trust Christ and get baptized.

**Three years later**, the cutting could be felt again. Once more I came under the heavy load of conviction and came to doubt whether or not I had really been saved at nine. Once more I made a commitment to Christ, this time nailing it down for good.

**It was the piercing power** of the Bible that made me realize that though I was actively attending church, I was not right with God. I was lost and in need of a savior. It was the Word of God that caused me to realize this. And not only that, it was also the Word that made me know that Jesus is the Son of God and savior. I learned from the word that He died on the cross for me and rose again.

**Today the Word** is still doing that. It still cuts me, sometimes deeply, as I delve into its riches. But with each cut there is an accompanying healing that makes me stronger, more healthy than before.

### 3. Purpose of the Bible (13)

The focus in this verse now switches to God. Really should not try to separate God from His word. God sees everything. Nothing is hidden from his sight. That can be discomfoting to the one who is doing wrong.

*The eyes of the Lord are everywhere, keeping watch on the wicked and the good.* Prov. 15:3

**Strong language** in the text. ***Naked and exposed.*** To twist the neck, as exposing the neck of a sacrificial animal. It was sometimes used to describe a wrestlers hold on an opponent rendering him helpless.

**In other words** the picture is that everything that we might depend upon to hide us from God will be taken away. He cannot be fooled or duped. He knows all.

We are accountable to God. We will stand before Him and account for our lives. The Word of God, the Bible is designed to prepare us for that time. If we read, trust and obey the Bible, we will be prepared for that day.

Stop procrastinating when it comes to reading and living the Word of God. Get with it. It will take more than a casual desire, it will take a firm commitment.