

## SERMON OUTLINE

**SERMON TITLE:** The Word of God

**SERMON REFERENCE:** Hebrews 4:12

**LWF SERMON NUMBER:** #1555

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1) INTRODUCTION

- a) Hebrews 4:12
- b) God's favorite name for the Bible is the Word of God.
- c) There are hundreds of verses in Scripture that speak of the Bible as the Word of God.
  - i) Mark 7:13
  - ii) Luke 5:1
  - iii) Acts 4:31
  - iv) Acts 12:24
  - v) Romans 10:17
  - vi) Ephesians 6:17
  - vii) Colossians 1:25
  - viii) 1 Timothy 4:5
  - ix) 1 Peter 1:23
  - x) 2 Peter 3:5
  - xi) Revelation 20:4
  - xii) Whether these words were spoken by the apostles, by Jesus, or whether these words were spoken by the Old Testament prophets and recorded on parchment or scroll, over and over again God calls these inspired utterances the Word of God.
- d) The more liberal a person becomes in his theology, the less he likes to call the Bible the Word of God.
  - i) People who take a liberal view of the Bible will call it the biblical records or the biblical materials or God's revelation.
  - ii) These descriptions take it a half-step away from what the Bible really is: the Word of God.
- e) Today's message will show us certain things about the Bible that must be true for it to be called the Word of God.

2) ITS ABSOLUTE PERFECTION (2 TIMOTHY 3:16)

- a) As the Word of God, the Bible must have absolute perfection.
  - i) A God of truth cannot speak error.
- b) 2 Timothy 3:16
  - i) All Scripture is God-breathed.
  - ii) It is given by inspiration of God, and the God of truth cannot inspire error.
- c) The Word of God was written down by human beings, but that makes it none the less the Word of God.
  - i) 2 Peter 1:21
    - (1) The word "moved" in this passage means "borne along," as a ship would be borne along with the wind in its sails.
  - ii) God used human instrumentality, and He used the Holy Spirit to keep these men from error.

- (1) Written by human penmen, every jot, tittle, point, every thought, and every word are there by the Word of God.
  - d) The more liberal a person becomes, the more he will claim that the Bible is inspired in its thoughts but not in its details.
    - i) Those who are theologically liberal do not believe in verbal inspiration.
    - ii) But God did verbally inspire the Word of God.
      - (1) Every word as God gave it is inspired by the Holy Ghost.
      - (2) Matthew 4:4
        - (a) "Every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God."
      - (3) Proverbs 30:5
    - iii) When someone claims that the Bible is inspired only in its thoughts but not its words, we need to remember that you can't have thoughts without words any more than you can have mathematics without numbers.
- 3) ITS WONDERFUL CHARACTER (JOHN 1:1-3)
- a) God has the same name for His Son as He does for His book.
    - i) God calls the Lord Jesus the Word of God, and He calls the Bible the Word of God.
    - ii) John 1:1-3
    - iii) Revelation 19:13
  - b) The character of Jesus and the character of the Bible are linked together.
    - i) If one is fallible, then so is the other.
  - c) The same name is used for the Word of the Lord and the Lord of the Word.
  - d) As we study the Bible, we find that Jesus, the Living Word, honored the Bible, the spoken Word.
    - i) Jesus said that the Scripture cannot be broken.
      - (1) John 10:35
  - e) The written Word presents Jesus, the Living Word; and the written Word makes Jesus its hero.
    - i) You cannot separate the two.
      - (1) The Bible is not Jesus, and Jesus is not Bible.
      - ii) They are not identical, but they are inseparable.
  - f) There is a character and correlation between Christ (the Living Word) and the Bible (the written Word):
    - i) Both the Lord Jesus, in His humanity, and the Bible have come from God.
      - (1) 2 Peter 1:21
        - (a) The Bible is the supernatural work of the Holy Ghost.
      - (2) Galatians 4:4
    - ii) Both the Living Word and the written Word live forever.
      - (1) In eternity, we will use the Word of God when we worship.
        - (a) 1 Peter 1:25
          - (i) The Word endures forever.
          - (ii) There'll never be a time when the Word of the Lord will not endure.

- (2) Revelation 1:18
    - (a) Forever, there will be the Living Word.
  - iii) Both are absolutely unchanging.
    - (1) Matthew 5:18
      - (a) The written Word cannot be changed.
    - (2) Hebrews 13:8
      - (a) Jesus Christ is also unchanging.
  - iv) Both the written Word and the Living Word are light for dark places.
    - (1) Psalm 119:105
    - (2) John 8:12
    - (3) Both the written Word and the Living Word are light.
  - v) Both include the human element.
    - (1) The written Word was written by men.
    - (2) The Lord Jesus was given birth by Mary.
      - (a) The fact that Mary gave Jesus birth did not make Jesus imperfect.
    - (3) The same Holy Spirit that protected the Lord Jesus Christ from sin kept the human writers of the Scripture from including error in what they wrote.
- 4) ITS AUTHORITY (HEBREWS 4:12)
- a) It is the Word of God.
    - i) When the Bible speaks, God speaks.
    - ii) Hebrews 4:12
  - b) The Word of God is quick.
    - i) The word “quick” in Hebrews 4:12 means “alive.”
    - ii) The Bible pulsates with life.
      - (1) The Bible is like no other book.
      - (2) It is alive in the power that it possesses.
      - (3) There is life in the Bible.
        - (a) The truth in the Bible has life-imparting power.
      - (4) John 6:63
    - iii) The Bible is alive because it presents a living person.
      - (1) The Bible presents the Lord Jesus.
      - (2) Other books that are written about characters may be written about fictitious characters or people who have died or people who will die.
      - (3) The Lord Jesus is the essential personality of all of the Bible.
  - c) The Word of God is powerful.
    - i) Hebrews 4:12
      - (1) The word “powerful” here is a combination of two words and is like our word “energy.”
    - ii) Not only does the Bible have life, but it also has energy.
      - (1) This means that the Bible works.
      - (2) You may read other books, but the Bible reads you.
  - d) The Word of God is like a sword.

- i) Hebrews 4:12
- ii) The Bible does its work like a sword.
- iii) It does exploratory surgery on the saints.
  - (1) The Word of God divides.
    - (a) Hebrews 4:12
      - (i) The marrow is the heart of the bones.
      - (ii) The joints are the hinges.
        - 1. The Word of God gets down to our attitudes and actions; the heart and the hinges.
    - (b) 1 Thessalonians 5:23
      - (i) God created us with a body, soul and spirit.
        - 1. In Hebrews 4:12, the body (joints and marrow), soul and spirit are all represented.
    - (c) Since the Bible is a spiritual sword, it divides the soul and the spirit.
      - (i) The spirit is that which makes a person absolutely unique and in the image of God.
        - 1. Man is the only creature that has a spirit because man is made in the image of God.
      - (ii) John 4:24
        - 1. How important it is, therefore, that we have an instrument that can divide soul and spirit.
    - (d) So much of the trouble we get into in the spiritual world is because we are not able to divide between soul and spirit.
      - (i) The reason we don't divide between soul and spirit is because we don't know the Word of God as we ought.
    - (e) The difference between soul and spirit is the difference between that which is natural and that which is supernatural.
      - (i) It's the difference between carnal emotions and spiritual experience.
    - (f) Many people have a knowledge of the Bible, but it's a soulish (carnal) knowledge rather than a spiritual knowledge.
  - (2) The Word of God discerns.
    - (a) Hebrews 4:12
      - (i) The word "discerner" here is the word we get our word "critic" from.
    - (b) The Word of God criticizes us.
      - (i) The Word of God lays us open and divides between the soul and the spirit.
      - (ii) It then tells us what we are.
      - (iii) It's a discerner of what makes us tick.
  - (3) The Word of God does exploratory surgery on the saints to search the saints, and then it does corrective surgery to sanctify the saints.
    - (a) Has the Bible ever cut anything out of your life?
    - (b) Matthew 18:8

- (i) Let the Word of God cut out of your life those things that offend.
- (ii) If there is some cancerous work of your hand or place you attend, let the Holy Spirit of God remove it so that healing and health may begin.
- iv) Not only does the Bible work with the saints, but it also works with the sinners.
  - (1) It works with convicting power.
    - (a) Acts 5:33
      - (i) Simon Peter was taken before a counsel, and he began to preach to them.
      - (ii) The Word of God cut them to the heart.
    - (b) Acts 7:54
      - (i) Stephen's preaching of the Word of God is what caused him to be stoned.
    - (c) When the Word of God is preached in power, one of three things will happen:
      - (i) You will get mad.
      - (ii) You will get sad.
      - (iii) You will get glad.
        - 1. The sword of the Lord will cut one way or the other.
          - a. It will hurt you or heal you.
  - (2) It is used in converting power.
    - (a) Acts 2:37
      - (i) On the day of Pentecost, Simon Peter used the sword of the Lord, and 3,000 people were saved by the Word of God.
    - (b) Isaiah 45:22
    - (c) It is not somebody's power of persuasion that touches a life so that they repent; it's the Word of God.
  - (3) It has a condemning power.
    - (a) Hebrews 4:12
      - (i) It's a two-edged sword.
    - (b) The Gospel is a saver of life unto life or death unto death.
      - (i) If the Bible does not cut you to heal you, it will cut you to condemn you.
    - (c) One day at the judgment, we will be judged by the Word of God.
      - (i) John 12:48
      - (ii) Mark 6:11
- v) The Word of God works against Satan.
  - (1) Ephesians 6:12
  - (2) Ephesians 6:17
  - (3) When you do battle with Satan, don't forget your sword, the Word of God.
  - (4) Three times Jesus ran Satan through with the Word of God.

- (a) Three times the devil came to tempt Jesus.
- (b) Three times Satan was defeated by the Word of God.
  - (i) Matthew 4:1-11
- (5) Never argue with the devil; just point him to the Word of God and step out of the argument.
  - (a) From then on, his argument is with God Himself.
- (6) The Word of God is our chief weapon against Satan.
- (7) Revelation 19:15
  - (a) At the Battle of Armageddon, the Antichrist may have his jets and lasers and firepower, but our side will have just one weapon: the Word of God.

## 5) CONCLUSION

- a) In these days in which we're living, we will go down if we don't know the Word of the Lord and the Lord of the Word.
- b) Do you know the Lord Jesus Christ personally?
  - i) If not, you can pray to Him today by asking Him to come into your life.
- c) Call upon Jesus today. Repent (turn) from your sins, and turn to Jesus. Ask Him to forgive you of your sins, and acknowledge Him as Lord of your life.
  - i) Romans 3:23
  - ii) Romans 10:9-10
  - iii) Romans 10:13
  - iv) Acts 16:31
  - v) John 3:16