

THE WONDERFUL WRITTEN WORD OF GOD

Heb.4:12

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. What a wonderful blessing it is that we have God's word in written form in the book we call the Bible.
2. And what a wonderful, a marvelous, an extraordinary thing it is to have the revealed will of God placed in our hands in a form we can read, understand and enjoy as we learn to know God, the Father, and Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God, and by that knowledge have eternal life. Cf. Jno.17:3.
3. Unfortunately, not all people, not even all professed Bible believers, respect this wonderful word of God, which is evident on every hand.
4. Let us consider some of the things about this written word that make it so wonderful in and of itself, things that reveal why it is such a blessing to have it, and why it should be believed, respected, obeyed and defended at all cost.

II. DISCUSSION

A. 1ST IT IS DIVINE IN ORIGIN.

1. 2Tim.3:16 says, "All scripture is given by inspiration of God..."
 - a. RV: "Every scripture inspired of God is...", or "every writing inspired of God is..."
 - b. The written word is "God-breathed"; it is divine in origin; it has God as its author by means of the Holy Spirit. Cf. Jno.14:26; 16:13-15; Ac.2:1-4; Eph.3:1-5.
 - c. "A learned infidel who examined the Bible for himself, and came to the irresistible conclusion of its Divine authorship, said, 'It would have been as easy for a mole to have written Sir Isaac Newton's treatise on optics as for uninspired men to have written the Bible.'" – The Preacher's Homiletic Commentary, Main Homiletics of The Paragraph, 2Tim.3:14-17, p.77, Funk & Wagnall Co., N.Y.
2. 2Pet.1:20,21 reveals further information on its divine origin.
 - a. That is, no prophecy of the scripture comes or springs into existence by means of private interpretation, or merely as the result of the prophet's own personal explanation.

- b. It is not the product of those who delivered it, but of God by means of the Holy Spirit who gave them the word and guided them in revealing it, first orally, then in written form.
- c. The prophecy came in old time by the instrumentality of men, but not by or through the will of man, or of human origin and design.
- d. But, rather, “holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Spirit.”
- e. Though the prophets were mere men, God, through His Holy Spirit, used them to reveal his will to man through the spoken and written word.
- f. See Jer.1:1-4; Ezek.1:3; Hos.1:1; Joel 1:1; Jonah 1:1; Mic. 1:1; Zeph.1:1; Hag.1:1; Zech.1:1; Mal.1:1.

B. 2ND IT IS ALIVE, ACTIVE AND POWERFUL IN NATURE AND PROFITABLE IN OPERATION AND FUNCTION.

- 1. 1ST The information in Heb.4:12 on the active, powerful, searching power of the word.
 - a. What is the word of God here spoken of?
 - (1) No doubt, the revealed word, to which the writer has been appealing.
 - b. How does the written word of God search or discern the thoughts and intents of the hearts of men?
 - (1) By the force of the Holy Spirit’s operation through it, Eph.6:17. Cf. Jno.16:7,8; Ac.2:36,37.
 - (2) It searches by the force of its commands, examples, counsels, warnings – wonderfully fitting into all the circumstances of men’s lives.
 - (3) Sinning men dread the Scriptures. They can’t ignore them, which is proven by the fact that they try to discredit them, or twist and pervert them to justify sinful practices in their own lives.
 - c. This living, active word is sharper than any two-edged sword.
 - (1) It has the power to lay open hearts far greater than the sacrificial knife of the priests of the O.T. had to lay bare the bodies of the animal sacrifice on the altar.
 - (2) It pierces even to the dividing asunder of the joints and marrow, the soul and spirit.
 - (3) It lays bare the thoughts and intents of the heart.

- d. For emphasis note in some detail this very vivid, impressive description of the word of God in Heb.4:12 in its power in, through, and over the lives of men.
- (1) According to this verse, the word is, as it were, a magistrate.
 - (a) It judges actions.
 - (b) It sifts motives.
 - (c) It pronounces sentences.
 - (2) As such it is:
 - (a) Living.
 - (1) It is “the breath of His lips” – God-breathed.
 - (2) And so it is never “a dead letter,” but always quick with spiritual life, and ready to quicken or give life. Cf. Jno.6:63.
 - (3) What Luther said of Paul’s writings is true of all Scripture inspired of God: its words “are not dead words; they are living creatures, and have hands and feet.”
 - (b) Energetic.
 - (1) The actual power of the word is as great as the authority which it claims.
 - (2) It is, indeed, the supreme power among men.
 - (3) In the moral sphere it dominates the thought of the world.
 - (4) to the individual soul it is like “a fire” and “a hammer” (Jer.23:29).
 - (5) It “sharper than any two-edged sword” – two-edged, because it both punishes as a sword and heals as a surgeon’s knife (Psa.107:20).
 - (c) Heart-dissecting.
 - (1) The word pierces into the deepest recesses of man’s being.
 - (2) It pricks men in their hears. Cf. Jno.16:7,8; Ac.2:36,37.
 - (3) It parts “soul and spirit,” “joints and marrow,” i.e., it separates the animal soul from the true spiritual human nature.
 - (4) It gives sensibility and power to the heavenward side of our being; and enables us

to distinguish what in us is carnal and must be subdued.

- (5) It marks off to the believer's consciousness "the works of the flesh" and "the fruit of the Spirit".

(d) All-discerning.

- (1) Naturally, these inspired writers of God evince or demonstrate a much greater knowledge of , even a perfect knowledge of human nature, a knowledge that Shakespeare or no other uninspired writer possesses.
- (2) God's word is the touchstone, the spiritual criterion, by which to test man's character.
- (3) It is an eye which detects the true spiritual condition of every one upon whom it gazes. It is that awful – filled with awe; impressive – eye that never closes.
- (4) It reads the most secret thoughts and desires of the soul, and pronounces judgment upon the impenitent for doom.
- (5) Even the manner in which a man treats the promises and the threats of the Bible shows what that man is in God's sight.

e. The secret of, or the reason for, the power of the word is found in, or based on, what Heb.4:13 says.

- (1) It is thus alive, active, energetic, effective and powerful because it is the word of the Omniscient One.
- (2) It derives from Him "who knows what is in man."
- (3) The All-seeing Judge, "with whom we have to do," has invested His word with its marvelous magisterial power.
- (4) As the teachings of Scripture are an exact transcript of the nature and will of God, even the bare word itself exercises as a Book transcendent moral influence over men.
- (5) But when accompanied with the supernatural energy of the Holy Spirit, upon which it depends for its efficacy as a means of grace,

Holy Scripture becomes the very omnipotence of the Omnipotent One, to arouse, convict, and condemn, as well as comfort, sanctify and save. Cf. Jno.17:17; 8:32; Jas.1:21; 1Cor.15:1,2.

2. 2Tim.3:16 also takes note not only of the divine origin of the word, but also of its profitableness or utility.
 - a. It is profitable or useful for **doctrine or teaching**; i.e., as a medium for communicating instruction, that we may know and believe what is necessary to salvation both here and hereafter.
 - b. It is profitable or useful for **reproof**, i.e., for the refutation of error, for convincing a man of his error, what is amiss in one's life.
 - c. It is profitable or useful for **correction**; i.e., as to how to correct what is practically wrong in one's life.
 - d. It is profitable or useful for **instruction (discipline) in righteousness**; i.e., righteousness being the element in which this discipline is to take effect, through the agency of Scripture; it furnishes one with a complete education in righteousness in a life pleasing to God.
3. Then V.17 states the purpose or the design and the result of the inspired word of God.
 - a. The design is the perfection of the man of God in life and service to God.
 - (1) It supplies the man of God will all due appliances or tools for this end.
 - (2) It helps to make us perfect or complete in knowledge, faith, and holiness, as well as to furnish us with wisdom and guidance in all holy service.
 - b. An inference is to be drawn from the design of these two verses on the all-sufficiency of the scripture inspired of God.
 - (1) It is a perfect, a plain, a sufficient rule of faith and practice in service to God, in answer to all mere human philosophy and human religious tradition, including that of Roman Catholicism.
 - (2) Therefore, since it can made us wise to salvation, perfect the man of God, and furnish him unto all

good works, then there is no need for human tradition to supplement its imaginary effects.

- (3) That is, no need or place for human Creeds, Disciplines, Church Manuals, Catechisms, etc.

C. 3RD IT IS CLEAR IN ITS DEMANDS AND CAN BE UNDERSTOOD BY MAN TO WHOM IT IS GIVEN.

1. It is clear in its statement and commands and can be understood by man, Eph.3:1-4; 5:17; Jno.8:31,32.
2. It is clear in its demands of faith and obedience.
 - a. Heb.11:6; 1Jno.3:23; Jno.8:24; Mk.16:15,16.
 - b. Heb.5:8,9; Col.3:17; Mt.7:21-23; 2Th.1:6-10.

D. 4TH IT IS FINAL IN JUDGMENT.

1. That we shall be judged by Jesus Christ, the Son of God, is a matter of record in the written word of God, Jno.5:22,23,25-29; Ac.10:42,43; 17:30,31; 2Tim.4:1.
2. That we shall be judged by his word, and that his word is final in the judgment of men, is also a matter of record in the written word of God, Jno.12:48-50; Cf. Jno.17:8,20,21; Deut.18:18,19; Ac.3:22,23; Col.3:17; Heb.5:8,9.

III. CONCLUSION

1. To impress upon you the influence of the wonderful written word of God we have discussed four very vivid, impressive characteristics of it.
2. We have discussed the fact that:
 - a. It is divine in origin.
 - b. It is alive, active, powerful in nature, and profitable in operation and function.
 - c. It is clear in its demands and can be understood by man to whom it is given.
 - d. It is final in judgment.