

Session 6: The Exhilaration of His Word...The Better High Priest, Jesus

Hebrews 4:12-13, “For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.¹³ Nothing in all creation is hidden from God’s sight. Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of him to whom we must give account.”

The Power of God in Words!

Do you know some words that meant something to you or changed your life in some way?

“The Word of God has made its way into our being...it’s ever present before us...and it is such that it cannot be disregarded.”

The Word is not only a sound with a certain meaning; it was and is a power that goes out and does things.

The Word that comes from the mouth of God is always effective (The Word of God will always do whatever He designed it to do). Isaiah 45:23, “....I will never go back on My word.”

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The Word of God, according to the writer of Hebrews is a series of great phrases:

- ***The Word of God...is always alive...
It is a living issue for all people at all times.***

Other things and words of great philosophers, individuals will come and go...But the Word of God is something that everyone must face and make a decision....

IT IS AN OFFER THAT WE MUST ACCEPT OR REJECT.

- ***The Word of God....is effective..
When people start to take the Word of God seriously...they immediately realize that His Word is not only: something to be studied, something to be read, something to be written about, But...It is something to be done (Active)***

- ***The Word of God....is penetrating
Penetrates the soul and spirit and divides it...Penetrates the joints and marrow and divides it...***

Even Penetrates the Soul and Spirit...distinction between man and animals.

Greek (Psuche...soul) and (pneuma...spirit).

It is by the spirit that we look beyond the physical and look to God. We accept or reject....and the Word of God has that power to cause us to make the decision.

The Word of God is so powerful that it scrutinizes our desires and our intentions...to the heart of the matter.

We are naked (laid bare) before the Lord. He sees us as we are....

This is not just a negative phrase....causing us to fear Him. It is phrase that helps us to see that God is in our corner and knows where we are, what we are needing Him for, and why we are in the position that we are in...in which we are calling on Him. He is there, here, and with...you and me.

Give in to the Master of our soul and spirit.

Hebrews 4:14-16, “Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has ascended into heaven,^[a] Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to the faith we profess. ¹⁵ For we do not have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet he did not sin. ¹⁶ Let us then approach God’s throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.”

Not Only a “Better” High Priest...Jesus is the Perfect High Priest

We don’t just go to a man...We go to a perfect man and a perfect God (two in one)...God Man!....Although He is One of the Trinity that makes up One God...He is two of one....God and Man!

“Has gone through the heavens”...an expression that might mean:

- *Passed from heaven to earth and back to heaven..*
- *He passed on to heaven to help us..(Living Bible).*
- *He passed through heaven (sky) and on to God’s heaven*
- *He passed through (“all the heavens” Ephesians 4:10)...*

“He (Jesus) who descended is the very one who ascended higher than all the heavens, in order to fill the whole universe.”

Paul speaks of a 3rd heaven in 2 Corinthians 12:2, “I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago was caught up to the third heaven. Whether it was in the body or out of the body I do not know—God knows.”

THIS IS NOT TO CONFUSE US...IT IS TO LET US KNOW THAT GOD MADE IT ALL AND WILL ESTABLISH A “NEW HEAVEN AND A NEW EARTH.” (Revelation 21:1)

Remember the most important thing, this “better priest” and this “perfect priest” is available to us now and will be available for us when we are with Him throughout eternity.

This passage expresses:

1. *The sheer greatness and absolute deity of Jesus.*
2. *The perfect identification with the human race...going through everything that an individual will go through....yet without sin.*
3. *The human experience of Jesus gave Him:*
 - *The gift of sympathy*
 - *The quality of mercy*
 - *The ability and desire to help.*

What do we mean?

- Help us in all our troubles, our failures.....and our successes.***
- How we react to Jesus’s willingness to sympathize, to be merciful, and to help us in every circumstance is observed by the Father.***

To the Christian the idea of God as a loving Father is interwoven into the very fabric of our mind and heart.

But, for the Jews, God was holy and different (incapable of sharing our feelings..because He was God).

To the Greeks, God was incapable of human feelings. They felt it was blasphemous to involve God in the affairs of the world because of feelings. Their thoughts concerning God...God felt nothing and was untouchable.

He will judge us on our reactions?

How do you see God?

As a judge...the final judge..How do see God?

How do you want to see God? In other words, what would you expect God to be if you had the perfect God that met your expectations?

Jesus is the perfect high priest because He is perfectly God, and perfectly one of us. Because He has known our life, He can give us sympathy, mercy and power. He brought God to men and women, and He can bring them to God.