

***The Promise: The Living Word***  
Hebrews 4:12-13

**INTRODUCTION:**

**I. The Sword is for Battle (v.11)**

- A. Our striving is a battle against unbelief, for belief in the gospel
  - 1. Rest is for those who've worked
  - 2. Failure is due to disobedience
  
- B. We battle with the Sword
  - 1. This nature of this weapon is for defense against unbelief by promoting belief
  - 2. So, this is the central instrument in our corporate battle for one another
  - 3. Unbelief is battled with the gospel of Christ -- the Gospel is revealed in the Scripture

**II. The Word of God is the Gospel**

- A. What is the Word?
  - 1. Logos
  - 2. Other uses for *logos* in Hebrews
  
- B. The Word is the Gospel
  - 1. Spoken from the prophets

- 2. Administered by angels
- 3. Spoken by, and lived out, and satisfied in Christ

**III. The Word of God is Alive and Active**

- A. To be living is to be at work
  - 1. The nature of God is to be at work because God is
  - 2. Speaks to His sovereignty (infinity)
  - 3. Reveals the inseparability of the word of God from God Himself
  
- B. To be alive is to be effective
  - 1. Energizes / effective
  - 2. Every description from here tells of how the word is effective
  - 3. Each description describes how the gospel energizes the believer
  - 4. The effectiveness of the gospel battles unbelief for the believer

**III. The Word of God is Sharper**

- A. Cutting
  - 1. The purpose of the sword is to cut
  - 2. The nature of the Word of God is to cut through
  
- B. The judgment of Christ

1. Revelation 1:16
2. Two-edged: Double meaning (**Romans 1:16-18**)

- C. Piercing
1. Gets well under the skin / surface
  2. The gospel gets to the in-between places that nothing / no one else can (soul/spirit, joint/marrow)

- D. Discerning
1. Thoughts and intentions (moral direction)
  2. Of the heart (the seat of understanding)
  3. The gospel changes one's affections and fruit is bore through worship
  4. **Jeremiah 17:9-10**

**IV. The Word of God is our only Hope (v.13)**

- A. EVERYONE will give an account
1. Being naked and exposed
  2. Before His eyes
  3. An accounting
- B. The Gospel is the only sufficient account we can give on THAT day
1. The Gospel is the language of the sufficient Savior (Revelation 1:16)
  2. The Gospel is the message of our mission

**CONCLUSION:**

- The gospel brings life and exacts judgment! We must not be ashamed of the gospel (Rom.1:16) and we must know the Gospel!
- This is the faithful prayer of the believer, knowing the searching eyes of God and His intent of good upon His children: **Psalm 139:23-24**
- He looks, and the pain of the scalpel of His Word is for your good because it will root out the congenital disease of unbelief and give you a heart transplant. For those who are His, in a fallen world, His Word can repair your brokenness and sickness of unbelief that can damage your soul.