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Sermon Notes

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## **The Word of God is Living and Active**

### **Hebrews 4:12-13**

Throughout military history, no technology was so carefully developed and guarded as that of swordmaking... the sword was the most powerful weapon in the world before the advent of gunpowder... thus it became a symbol of military conquest:

To live by the sword or to die by the sword meant to live and die by military conquest

The sword devours one as well as another

Swords are mentioned 404 times in the NIV...

The merest mention of the word **sword** evokes images of legendary figures: English knights, Roman gladiators, Japanese ninjas or Viking warriors.

When I was a missionary in Japan, I became fascinated by the *katana*, the legendary Samurai sword that was forged with astonishing precision by ancient technologies

When you look at the edge of an exquisitely forged Samurai sword, you can see ripples in the steel... as though there are layers upon layers of steel

And that's because that is exactly what they are... layers after layers of two different types of steel: High carbon steel, that is exceptionally hard: such steel can be honed to a microscopically razor sharp edge, able to cut through any armor it might face; the problem with the high-carbon steel is that it is also brittle... it can snap easily in battle; so the craftsmen learned to layer the high-carbon steel with low carbon steel that was tougher, more durable... the combination of exquisite hardness honed to a razor-sharp edge with amazing toughness was achieved with these layers

sometimes the blacksmith would fold the sword's metal sixteen times and pound it down while it was red hot...

It took centuries for this art to be developed and the secrets to the manufacture of these terrifying weapons of war were closely guarded

Stories developed over time of two master craftsmen

Masamune and Muramasa... two men who actually lived at different times from each other, so the legendary contest between the two could never actually have happened. Now, Samurai

sword history regards Masamune's swords as some of the most beautifully crafted Katana ever made, and his surviving swords are all priceless national treasures. By contrast, Muramasa's swords were regarded as violent, brutish and evil while the swords of Masamune were considered to be deeply spiritual, pure and benevolent. In the legend, Muramasa was Masamune's student. The student became arrogant and at some point challenged his master to see who could make the finer sword.

To test the swords, each sword was held into the current of a stream. The student Muramasa's sword was so perfectly sharp it was said to have cut a leaf in half that simply touched the blade from the current alone. But the master Masamune's sword did not cut a thing, with the leaves miraculously avoiding it at the last second, as if to show it possessed a benevolent power that would not harm anything that was innocent or undeserving - even a simple leaf..

But that is just a legend... in the passage today we read of a more perfect sword, sharper, more penetrating, and more spiritual... as a matter of fact, this sword is actually said to be ALIVE: Even better than the Samurai legend, this sword only ever cuts in order to heal... it cuts in order to bring life, it cuts in order to ingraft faith, it cuts in order surgically to remove the tumor of sin...

it is the word of God

***Hebrews 4:12-13 For the word of God is living 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. <sup>13</sup> 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.***

Every time you pick up the Bible, you are holding in your hand an astonishing marvel... it is literally a miracle. Only the power of Almighty God can explain the existence and potency of the Bible

Over the centuries, God forged this sword in the furnace of human history... inspiring its authors to write perfect words that reveal the mind of God to the human race

The Uniqueness of the Bible: "Unique" = different from every other book

a. unique in its continuity

- ◆ Written over a 1500 year span
- ◆ Written over 40 generations
- ◆ Written by over 40 authors from every walk of life: kings, peasants, philosophers, fishermen, poets, statesmen, scholars
- ◆ Written in different places: Moses in the desert, Jeremiah in a dungeon, Daniel in a palace, Paul in a prison, John in exile on an island

- ◆ Written in times of war, of peace, of great joy, of terrible sadness
- ◆ Written on three continents: Asia, Africa, Europe
- ◆ Written in three languages: Hebrew, Aramaic, Greek
- ◆ Written about hundreds of controversial subjects: life, death, judgment, right & wrong, marriage, divorce, parenting, government, sin, forgiveness

**Yet, for all of this, the Bible speaks with a united voice about all these issues!**

b. unique in its circulation & translation:

- ◆ several billion copies of the Bible
- ◆ over 2500 different languages
- ◆ no other book in human history even comes close

c. unique in its survival

- ◆ survival over time: over 3500 years of history
- ◆ survival through persecution: many kings and leaders have tried to destroy the Bible, burn it, forbid its spread, forbid from being read
- ◆ survival through criticism: unbelievers have for hundreds of years tried to pick the Bible apart and find errors in it... they have utterly failed

d. unique in its teachings

- ◆ prophecy: the Bible alone stands outside of time and makes predictions which come true hundreds, even thousands of years later
- ◆ history: the Bible records historical events of thousands of years ago with incredible accuracy... modern archeology has verified many of these details
- ◆ personalities: the Bible is honest about its heroes... never tries to cover up their failings or sins: e.g. King David & Bathsheba; disciples' constantly misunderstanding Jesus... the Bible has a habit of telling the truth

Context: Why does the author of Hebrews pause to celebrate the power of the word of God here in Hebrews 4?

Answer: for much of the last two chapters, the author has been meditating very powerfully and searchingly over a small portion of the Old Testament, five verses in Psalm 95. He has

zeroed in on the overall message of these verses: the failure of the Jews to enter the Promised Land because of their unbelief and disobedience; he has obviously applied that in the New Covenant to the failure of those who hear the gospel of Jesus Christ to press on in faith until they finally enter heaven.

He has also meditated powerfully on some key words: “Today”... “God’s rest” The idea of “Today” has come to the fore several times, that God set a certain day calling it “Today”... this is all we ever have to hear, believe and obey the word of God. God’s rest is a theme of the Old Testament: God’s rest after creation, and the focus on the people of God entering the Promised Land.

He has set the whole Psalm in context, noting that David wrote it long after Joshua gave them

More than anything, he has shown the absolute necessity of hearing the voice of God by the Holy Spirit’s present pressing of the written word of God on the conscience of the believer... the essence of ongoing spiritual health is hearing God speak through Scripture by the Holy Spirit, and not hardening your heart when you do... actually OBEYING whatever God says through the word.

ALL OF THIS has come from five overwhelmingly powerful verses in one Psalm!!! That is the incredible power of the word of God... so the author to Hebrews stops to celebrate this awesome phenomenon—the written word of God.

His goal is to keep the Hebrew believers connected to the only power source by which their faith will be renewed... the living, active word of God

## I. The Searching Qualities of the Word of God

***Hebrews 4:12 For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow***

### A. Living

1. The word of God is ALIVE... it is living
2. What does this mean? It is a mystery, impossible to comprehend; but these words are LIVING words

J.I. Packer, speaking of Richard Baxter’s *Reformed Pastor*: “Its words have hands and feet. They climb all over you; they work their way into your heart and conscience, and will not be dislodged.”

That is true of Baxter’s book... it is INFINITELY MORE TRUE of the words of Scripture... they are living things; they run into your brain through your eyes as you read and your ears as you hear; they find their way quickly through your spiritual bloodstream into the vital organs of your spiritual existence and they settle in their; they are ALIVE... they begin to multiply their effects on you, send off related thoughts and implications, challenging an ever widening circle of issues in your heart and mind... they are multiplying

and replicating and moving and churning and running roughshod over your objections and taking over your whole way of viewing everything

3. They also IMPART life...

- a. Basic biological principle: life comes from life
- b. If something is alive, it had some living parent to give it birth
- c. So also if you are ALIVE spiritually, it is the WORD OF GOD, specifically the WORD of the GOSPEL that gave you birth...
- d. Life comes from life... so the word of God is LIVING, in that it makes you alive spiritually
- e. We WERE spiritually dead, and it was the WORD that gave you life

***Ephesians 2:1 As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins...***

***Ephesians 2:5 God... made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions-- it is by grace you have been saved.***

***John 5:24 I tell you the truth, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be condemned; he has crossed over from death to life.***

- f. Our planet is mysteriously alive by the power of seeds to sprout forth; the remotest island in the world is Tristan de Cunha in the South Atlantic; it is 1509 miles from the nearest landmass, and that is the island of St. Helena, where Napoleon was exiled; Tristan de Cunha is covered with lush vegetation of many different sorts: how did it get there, you may ask? Seeds either float long distances on air currents or on the ocean's waves on logs, or amazingly in the intestines of birds... but when those seeds are planted, they immediately spring to life and bear vegetation

In 1902, Dr. J.C. Bayles did an astonishing experiment with some wheat seeds that had been extracted from the burial cloths of an Egyptian mummy; the mummy dated from the 12<sup>th</sup> Dynasty of Egypt, approximately 1288 B.C. That means the seeds were over 3000 years old; Dr. Bayles said these tiny seeds were hard as a grain of silica, but evidently they had been kept perfectly dry all those centuries; when he planted them and watered them as he would any ordinary seeds, they sprouted and formed magnificent heads of bronze grain;

[“The Perennial Miracle of Spring”; NY Times, April 27, 1902]

this is the principle of BIOLOGICAL LIFE wrapped up in a wheat seed; HOW MUCH MORE POWERFUL is the Word of God, which after even more time can spring to life in your heart by the power of the Holy Spirit!

The Reformation was largely due to a copy of the Scriptures left in the seclusion of a monastery in Erfurt, Germany, and there hidden till Luther came under its influence, and his heart furnished soil for the living seed to grow in.

- g. The bible also has power to REVIVE you spiritually... if you are flagging, growing weaker spiritually; it is the LIVING word of God that does this... like this story from 2 Kings:

***2 Kings 13:21 Once while some Israelites were burying a man, suddenly they saw a band of raiders; so they threw the man's body into Elisha's tomb. When the body touched Elisha's bones, the man came to life and stood up on his feet.***

4. No one needs to MAKE THE BIBLE COME ALIVE... the Word of God is alive already; when a pastor or teacher is said to “make the Bible come alive”, what they are saying is that the Holy Spirit is using that man to unleash the power of the living word to make YOU come alive
5. Other books make an impact... (Plato’s philosophizing, Einstein’s general and special theories of relativity, Shakespeare’s plays, Jane Austen’s novels, Gibbon’s *Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire*, Copernicus’s *Revolution of the Heavenly Bodies*) but only the Bible is ALIVE and only the Bible can impart life
6. We may outgrow other books... we may outgrow novels that were our favorites; we may outgrow pastors and teachers; but you will never outgrow the Bible...
7. It is forever YOUNG and forever ANCIENT... it will never lose its youthful vitality or its ancient wisdom and experience... it will never get old and feeble, or become out of date and uncool
8. Also, the Bible CANNOT BE KILLED... though many have sought to crush this book and make it disappear, they cannot do it; the Roman Empire could not do it; the Barbarian Dark Ages in Europe could not do it; the Vikings and all their depredations on monasteries and burnings of scrolls could not do it; the medieval Roman Catholic burnings of Luther’s translation of the Bible into German couldn’t stop it; the Enlightenment’s mockery under Voltaire and Kant couldn’t kill it; the murderous and totalitarian 20<sup>th</sup> century with its Nazis and its Communists couldn’t kill the Word of God
  - a. Persecution can’t kill the Bible
  - b. Neither can Worldliness
  - c. Nor Doctrinal Error
  - d. Nor lazy neglect
  - e. Nor slanderous misrepresentations of its teachings
  - f. Not unbelief by most of a whole generation
  - g. IT STILL LIVES!!!

Charles Spurgeon: The gospel is such a living gospel that, if it were cut into a thousand shreds, every particle of it would live and grow. If it were buried beneath a thousand avalanches of error, it would shake off the rubble and rise from its grave, If it were cast into the midst of fire it would walk through the flame as it has done many a time, as though it were in its natural element.

## B. Active (Effective)

1. The author also tells us that the Word of God is “active”... or “powerful”... or perhaps “energetic”
2. I take this to mean “effective”... able to produce the effect it desires
  - a. Drug manufacturers who want to test the effectiveness of a drug need to clear it away from the psychosomatic effects of simply taking medicine.... In other words, for some people, just taking a pill can produce a mental effect that aids in the healing of the body
  - b. SO... researchers who want to prove that their drug actually produces an EFFECT test it compared to a PLACEBO; a placebo is a substance in the exact same shape of pill as the real drug, but which is chemically INERT... proven to have NO CHEMICAL EFFECT WHATSOEVER on the body
  - c. Placebo chemicals are studied and analyzed in their own right, and proven to be INERT...
  - d. Dear friends, the WORD OF GOD is NOT INERT... it is NO PLACEBO... it produces a specific effect in the human heart
3. Clear testimony:

***Isaiah 55:10-11 As the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return to it without watering the earth and making it bud and flourish, so that it yields seed for the sower and bread for the eater, <sup>11</sup> so is my word that goes out from my mouth: It will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it.***

4. The Word of God produces a direct and unmistakable effect

***Genesis 1:3 “And God said, ‘Let there be light’; and there was light.***

***Genesis 1:9 And God said, “Let the water under the sky be gathered to one place, and let dry ground appear.” And it was so.***

5. The Word of God produces its effect specifically on HUMAN HEARTS spiritually...

- a. For the elect, they are wooed and won to Christ, sustained and nourished and warned and kept in Christ by the Word of God
- b. For the non-elect, they are hardened and offended confirmed in sin by the Word of God

***2 Corinthians 2:15-16 For we are to God the aroma of Christ among those who are being saved and those who are perishing. <sup>16</sup> To the one we are the smell of death; to the other, the fragrance of life.***

- 6. Preachers need to trust WHOLLY in the Bible... good, clear expositions of Scripture... to build the church to full maturity in Christ

Spurgeon: "I cannot help feeling that the man who preaches the Word of God is standing, not upon a mere platform, but upon a throne.

Spurgeon, to his fellow pastors: You may study your sermon, my brother, and you may be a great rhetorician, and be able to deliver it with wonderful fluency and force; but the only power that is effectual for the highest design of preaching is the power which does not lie in your word, nor in my word, but in the Word of God. Have you never noticed, when persons are converted, that they almost always attribute it to some text that was quoted in the sermon? It is God's Word, not our comment on God's Word, which saves souls.

- 7. What effect does the Word of God produce?
  - a. It releases those captive to sin... it unlocks the doors of hearts in the prison cell of unbelief and lets the captive go free into eternal life in Jesus
  - b. It unlocks the doors of depression and discouragement and sets the captive free into lives of joyful service to the Savior
  - c. It convicts sinful, twisted hearts of deep hidden patterns of selfishness, showing them to be the snares they are
  - d. It illuminates the dangerous snares of lusts and the perilous cliffs of materialism because it is a lamp to our feet and a light to our path
- 8. All servants of Christ should put their full confidence in the Word of God... if you want to make a difference in this dark world, proclaim the word to others... speak the word, breathe the word, leave tracts with the word of God
- 9. Because the word of God is EFFECTIVE

C. Sharp

***Hebrews 4:12 For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword***

1. The author next describes the SHARPNESS of the Word of God... it has power to divide and separate things that ordinarily are bound together
2. What is a “double-edged sword”? Literally “two-mouthed” sword, one that cuts both ways... two honed edged, no dull side
3. There is not a DULL passage in the Bible

Spurgeon told the story of a man reading a simple Sunday School lesson, came upon the genealogy of Genesis 5 from Adam to Noah... each entry ended with the droning words “So and so live so many years, and then he died.” The repetition of the words “And then he died; and then he died; and then he died... including Methuselah who lived longer than any other human being... and then he died

This man was cut to the heart by this passage, surprising as it may seem to you; and he fell under the weight of conviction and the sense of the danger of death and judgment... he repented and eventually came to Christ

This word is SHARPER than any double-edged sword

4. AND it “cuts both ways”
  - a. A preacher unleashing the powerful and convicting word of the Bible needs to see the cutting edge coming back at him as well
  - b. Every godly preacher knows that he is sitting under the power and authority of the Word he is proclaiming as much as anyone sitting in the congregation
5. The Word of God has power to HURT us and then to HEAL us with its cutting
6. It is a powerful thing that can cut you in surprising ways... it can bleed you internally, but only for the purpose of HEALING you spiritually

Illus. A malignant tumor growing inside your body is sustained and nourished by the same types of blood vessels that sustain and nourish your vital organs... the blood cells dutifully feed that vicious tumor, not knowing that the tumor threatens the very life of the whole body; so it is that sin, undetected can grow to such a point in the body that it threatens the health of your soul; when the surgeon’s scalpel severs the blood vessels that are feeding that tumor, there is some bleeding... but the cutting is necessary to bring health to the body; so is the word of God sharper than any two-edged sword, bringing healing by cutting out sin

#### D. Penetrating

***Hebrews 4:12 For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow***

1. The final attribute of the word of God has to do with its PENETRATING power... it has the power to pierce human hearts

2. The human heart can put up defenses and barriers to the truth of the gospel
3. It is hard, like a brick wall... or like a hardened steel of a bank vault... what could possibly penetrate it?
  - a. We see this powerfully on the Day of Pentecost

***Acts 2:37 When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles, "Brothers, what shall we do?"***

Peter's powerful Pentecost sermon had laid them bare... made them see their sinfulness, the fact that they had had a hand in wickedly putting Jesus to death; Peter's preaching of the Gospel gave their hearts a wound that was instrumental in saving their souls

The Word of God can PIERCE like a rapier point, penetrating our hardened hearts

- b. Amazing story told from the life of George Whitefield... the great 18<sup>th</sup> century preacher used so mightily by God in the Great Awakening
- c. He had many powerful enemies, and was mocked wherever he went to preach; people would mock him by throwing dead cats at him while he was preaching; or blowing a trumpet near his ear; but he continued to warn sinners deeply and passionately with the gospel message;

**One of Whitefield's enemies was a man named Thorpe, who was a bitter opponent of everything that is holy. He and a group of his friends—all of them young, rebellious thugs—conspired together to mock and oppose George Whitefield's evangelistic ministry while Whitefield was preaching in Bristol, England.**

**George Whitefield had severely crossed eyes, and these guys used to refer to him as "Dr. Squintum." They called their little gang "The Hell-Fire Club," and they disrupted meetings, mocked Whitefield on the streets and in public places, and generally tried to make his ministry a reproach in their community. Whitefield's preaching had already made a deep and lasting impact in Bristol, and these young rebels hated him for it. So this guy Thorpe got one of Whitefield's published sermons and took it to the local pub, where the "Hell-Fire Club" was gathered to drink together while they make a mockery of Whitefield.**

**Thorpe was apparently pretty good at doing impressions, and he had all Whitefield's mannerisms and gestures down pat. So he stood in the center of this pub and crossed his eyes and began to deliver a derisive rendition of Whitefield's sermon. But in the middle of the sermon, the Word of God pierced his heart, and he suddenly stopped and sat down, trembling and broken-hearted. Right then and there, he confessed the truth of the gospel and gave his heart to Christ. His aim was to taunt and ridicule, but he accidentally converted himself! Or rather, the power of the Word of God penetrated his soul and cut him to the heart. He became a preacher himself and quite an effective evangelist, because he knew so well the power of the Word of God to penetrate hardened hearts.**

4. So the word of God can expose sin, and penetrate to the heart of sin and kill it completely
5. It has power to DISCRIMINATE between this and that... dividing "soul and spirit, joints and marrow"
  - a. This goes to the very deepest part of the human personality
  - b. The inmost thoughts of the heart, the deepest aspects of the human life
  - c. Some make a careful distinction of "soul and spirit"
    - i) They say the soul is the part of you that is supernaturally implanted by God at conversion... the ability to relate to God
    - ii) The spirit, they say, is the natural inner man... the spirit is in each living human; the natural internal drives and tendencies, etc.
    - iii) I struggle to accept this distinction... but this verse tells me if a distinction CAN BE made between "soul and spirit", the word of God is penetrating enough to do it!
6. The word of God discriminates between this thought and that

Spurgeon: The Word not only lets you see what your thoughts are, but it criticizes your thoughts. The Word of God says of this thought, "it is vain," and of that thought, "it is acceptable"; of this thought, "it is selfish," and of that thought, "it is Christ-like." It is a judge of the thoughts of men. And the Word of God is such a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart that when men twist about, and wind, and wander, yet it tracks them.

## II. Judgment Day Before the Word of God

***Hebrews 4:12 it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.***

A. The Function of the Word of God: Salvation Through Faith in Christ

***2 Timothy 3:15 the holy Scriptures... are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.***

B. The Function Here: Judgment of the Human Heart... Thoughts and Attitudes

1. Before salvation can happen, the sinner must be made to see himself as guilty in the holy eyes of Almighty God, his judge...
2. The word has the power to act as a MIRROR to show you your corrupt motives... why you do what you do
3. The word of God has the power to ILLUMINATE your thought life and reveal it to be godly or corrupt at every moment

4. The word of God has the power to lay bare the hidden twists and turns of the human heart, no matter how deceptive or tricky it is

***Jeremiah 17:9-10 The heart is deceitful above all things and beyond cure. Who can understand it? <sup>10</sup> "I the LORD search the heart and examine the mind, to reward a man according to his conduct, according to what his deeds deserve."***

5. Hunters can catch foxes, despite their clever tricks and their amazing quickness... we can study the habits of foxes and their habitual lairs, and devise traps that can snare them... but God alone can catch the sinful human heart and string it up and lay it bare and exposed

### C. The Spirit and the Word Cooperate in Conviction

1. The heart must be brought to conviction before a Savior can be called upon
2. The word ALONE cannot do this... neither does the Spirit ALONE choose to do this

***John 16:8 When [the Holy Spirit] comes, he will convict the world of guilt in regard to sin and righteousness and judgment***

3. This is a purely cooperative work between the Word and the Spirit resulting in our salvation
4. SO the word of God's purpose in salvation is to bring Judgment Day... the reality of it... directly home to your heart NOW by faith... to make the day REAL in your minds

***Revelation 20:12 And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Another book was opened, which is the book of life. The dead were judged according to what they had done as recorded in the books.***

## III. The Searching Omniscience of God Himself

***Hebrews 4:13 Nothing in all creation is hidden from God's sight. Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of him***

### A. God the Creator: Omnipotent

1. The whole realm of creation is God's, for He made it
2. Since the universe is God's, He alone rules omnipotent over it
3. God sits enthroned above the circle of the earth, and His eyes search out all the events that are occurring before Him

### B. God the King: Omniscient

1. God sees everything, and knows everything
2. Nothing in all creation is hidden from His sight...
3. Sinners think God cannot see, cannot know

***Psalm 94:4-9 They pour out arrogant words; all the evildoers are full of boasting. <sup>5</sup> They crush your people, O LORD; they oppress your inheritance. <sup>6</sup> They slay the widow and the alien; they murder the fatherless. <sup>7</sup> They say, "The LORD does not see; the God of Jacob pays no heed." <sup>8</sup> Take heed, you senseless ones among the people; you fools, when will you become wise? <sup>9</sup> Does he who implanted the ear not hear? Does he who formed the eye not see?***

4. The word of God opens up the secret things of our hearts
  - a. Our secret lusts... our secret deeds... the things that we hide from others, that we are ashamed to discuss
  - b. Our memories, deeply locked away... things we have done in the past... the word of God UNCOVERS them in God's holy presence so we can bring them to the cross for forgiveness
5. Even the best men in the Bible forget the omniscience of God and His omnipresence
  - a. Moses looked around to see if anyone was watching before he killed the Egyptian
  - b. Jonah thought he could flee to Tarshish away from the presence of the Lord

#### C. Human Sinners: Deeply Desiring a Covering

1. Adam and Eve made fig leaves to cover themselves from each other
2. When they heard the sound of God walking in the Garden, they knew their fig leaves were insufficient for covering and they fled to hide behind some trees
3. God alone can truly cover sins by the blood of Jesus

#### IV. Judgment Day Before God Himself

***Hebrews 4:13 to whom we must give account.***

##### A. God the Judge

***Hebrews 9:27 ... man is destined to die once, and after that to face judgment***

##### B. There is Only One Covering: The Blood of Jesus

***Romans 4:7-8 "Blessed are they whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered. <sup>8</sup> Blessed is the man whose sin the Lord will never count against him."***

## V. Application

### A. Prize, Reverence and Stand in Awe of the Word of God

1. Let us read it, prize it, cherish it, saturate our lives with it

### B. Let the Word of God Convert You!!!

1. Stop running... let the word of God do its deepest work in your soul
2. Come to the cross of Christ

### C. Let the Word of God Revive You Spiritually

Spurgeon: let us, whenever we feel ourselves dead, and especially in prayer, get close to the Word, for the Word of God is alive.

### D. Let the Word of God Strengthen You for His Service

whenever we feel weak in our duties, let us go to the Word of God, and the Christ in the Word, for power; and this will be the best of power. The power of our natural abilities, the power of our acquired knowledge, the power of our gathered experience, all these may be vanity, but the power which is in the Word will prove effectual.

### E. Let the Word of God Be Your Main Strategy for Fruitfulness

Let us not attempt to carry on Christ's war with the weapons of Satan. There is nothing so cutting as the Word of God. Keep to that. I believe also that one of the best ways of convincing men of error is not so much to denounce the error as to proclaim the truth more clearly. If a stick is very crooked, and you wish to prove that it is so, get a straight one, and quietly lay it down by its side, and when men look they will surely see the difference. The Word of God has a very keen edge about it, and all the cutting words you lack you had better borrow from the Bible.

### F. Let the Word of God Search Your Innermost Heart

***Psalm 139:23-24 Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. <sup>24</sup> See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.***