

I. Introduction and review.

- A. Understand this well known text in light of its context. 3:7-4
- B. How does God's Word come to us?
1. We are confronted with God's inerrant and authoritative revelation in Scripture. 1:1-3 II Tim. 3:16-17 II Pe. 1:21 Pr. 30:5
 2. God also speaks to us through the preaching of His Word. 2:1-4 II Ti. 4:1-2 Ro. 10:17 Acts 4:31 13:5 I Cor. 1:22-23.

II. God's Word is powerful. v. 12

- A. The Word of God is living. v. 12a
1. Unbelievers look upon the Bible as an outdated dead book.
 2. The Author of Scripture is the living God. 3:12 10:31 12:22
 3. The Bible outlasts all other books. Isa. 40:8 Ps. 19:8
 4. God's Word gives life. Mt. 4:4 Dt. 8:3 32:47 Jo. 6:56-58 7:38 14:6 I Pe. 1:23
- B. The Word of God is active (energetic, effective). v. 12b
1. Where is the power of God's Word seen? 1:2-3 11:3 Gen. 1:3f Ps. 19:7-9 John 1:1f I Co. 1:18 6:9-11 II Co. 4:6
 2. The Word always achieves God's purpose. Isa. 55:11 6:8-10 46:8-11 Ro. 9:6
 3. God's Word enlightens and empowers you. Ps. 119:105
 4. Every promise of God's Word can be fully trusted. 4:1
- C. God's Word is piercing. v. 12c Eph. 6:17 Rev. 1:16 2:12 19:15 Isa. 49:2
1. What is the meaning of the two-edged sword?
 2. What is the difference between the soul and spirit?
 3. God's Word reveals your true character. Jer. 17:9-10 Rom. 3:10-18 Mt. 5:21f
 4. God's Word judges your motives. Ps. 139:1-3 Mark 7:21f Js. 4:1-2 I Cor. 4:5
 5. God's Word reveals the true nature of sin. 3:13 12:16
 6. God's Word pierces the conscience. Acts 2:37 5:33 7:54 II Cor. 2:15f Jo. 3:19-20

III. You will be judged based upon your reception of God's Word. v. 13

- A. Your attitude to God's Word is your attitude towards God Himself.
- B. You are open and defenseless before God. v. 13a
1. Hiding is futile. Gen. 3:9 Jer. 16:17 23:24 I Sam. 16:7
 2. There is no escaping God. I Cor. 4:5 Pr. 5:21 Ps. 33:13-15 139:12 Ps. 139:12
 3. He knows you better than you know yourself. Mt. 9:4 12:25 John 2:23-24
- C. You will give account to God. v. 13b 9:27 Jo. 12:48 II Cor. 5:10 Ro. 14:12 Rev. 6:17
1. You may not want anything to do with God, but you will face Him just the same.
 2. You cannot disregard His Word with impunity.
 3. You will stand before His throne of judgment. 9:27
 4. The judgment we face is more terrible than physical death. 10:29-31
- D. Thank God we have a sympathetic High Priest to represent us in heaven! v. 14f 2:17

IV. What is your response to God's Word?

A. The Word of God evokes different responses. 4:2-3 I Cor. 1:18 2:14 II Co. 2:15-16

B. Most respond in unbelief.

1. Many attack God's Word.

**2. Some dare to add to or corrupt God's Word. II Co. 2:17 4:2 I Ti. 4:1 I Jo. 4:1f
Mark 7:8,13**

3. Even more ignore God's Word. 2:3-4 4:2,6

4. Some have turned away from God's Word. 6:5

5. Those who dare to stand in judgment of God's Word will find themselves judged by the Word. Jer. 23:29-30.

C. By God's grace we believe and value God's Word. Ps. 19:10 119:111 I Pe. 2:2-3

1. We receive the gospel through faith. 4:3 I Th. 2:13 Acts 11:1

2. We give attention to private reading, study, memorization, and meditation. Ps. 1

3. We are devoted to hearing God's Word proclaimed. Acts 2:42

4. We strive, by faith, to put God's Word into practice. Mt. 7:24f Js. 1:22 II Ti. 3:17

V. Concluding applications.

A. Use the Word of God to build up your faith. Rom. 10:17 Ps. 139:23-24

B. Use the Word of God to encourage one another. 3:13 Rom. 15:14 Col. 3:16

Discussion questions

1. What is the Word of God? How can you know?

2. In what sense is the Word of God living?

3. How is the Word of God active?

4. How is the Word of God like a two-edged sword?

5. Why is your response to God's Word so important?

6. Has the Word of God failed when people reject it?

7. How does the Word of God help you through the wilderness times in your life?

8. How can you use the Word of God to help one another?