

## ***Jesus Has a Better Word - Hebrews 4:12-13*** **Notes, Family Worship, Bible Reading**

### **Notes from the Sermon**

In the flow of his argument, the author of Hebrews pauses to remind his readers and hearers about the foundational basis for everything he has written. He is not just posturing and pondering, rather, Hebrews heavily leans in to the text of the Old Testament, the Scriptures for the Jewish people. They believed (as we do) that the Scriptures are vastly more than a series of human books about God, rather, they are the very Word of God. This does not deny human authorship, but is the claim that God Himself inspired the very words the human authors (including the author of our book, Hebrews) in such a way that he used their imperfect humanity to articulate His perfect Word. No wonder our author makes the claim that the Word of God is living, powerful, and penetrating to the deepest parts of our humanity. Our sermon this week looked at the claim in Hebrews 4 about the Word and reminded us about the core doctrines we believe about Scripture.

### **Fast facts about the Bible**

- The Bible has 66 books
- In 2 sections – Old Testament and New Testament
- 39 Old Testament Books
- 27 New Testament Books
- Written by over 40 authors
- All types of people – Prophets, kings, shepherds, a doctor, a nomad, a cup bearer, priests, tax collector, tentmaker, fishermen
- Written Over 1500 Years
- In 3 different languages- Hebrew, Aramaic, Greek
- From 3 different continents - Asia, Europe, Africa
- One central message – The story of God and His plan to save people.

The Bible is a completely divine book, meaning that every word contained in the text comes from the heart and mouth of God. But it is also a completely human book, meaning that all of the Scriptures were written by men under the inspiration of God, yet using their life situation, personality, problems, and even sinfulness as they wrote. This is a miracle. In fact, we can cite **three miracles** God has performed to get us the Scriptures as we have them today.

1. **INSPIRATION** - The miracle of God speaking through flawed people to give us His perfect Word.

2. **PRESERVATION** - God protected the integrity of the Bible, even though people throughout history have tried to destroy it and have persecuted those who kept it.

3. **ILLUMINATION** – Every time I read the Bible and understand it, God is present and performing a miracle.

### **Four characteristics of the Bible**

- **SUFFICIENCY** - The Scriptures as we have them are God's full revelation of Himself and is all that we need to know God and understand the Gospel.
- **CLARITY** - The Bible is written in such a way that all things necessary for our salvation and for our Christian life and growth are very clearly set forth in Scripture.

- FINAL/AUTHORITY - All the words in Scripture are God's words in such a way that to disbelieve or disobey any word of Scripture is to disbelieve or disobey God.
- NECESSITY - the Bible is necessary for knowing the gospel, for maintaining spiritual life, and for knowing God's will, but not necessary for knowing that God exists or for knowing something about God's character and moral laws.

The message of the Bible

Every word in the Bible is pointing to Jesus. Laws show us our need, songs and poems are about Him, and prophecies told that Jesus was on the way.

**Bible Reading for the Week**

Daily Bible Readings

Sun	Mon	Tues	Weds	Thurs	Fri	Sat
Zechariah 14	Malachi 1	Malachi 2	Malachi 3	Malachi 4	James 1	James 2

Reading from this past week: Hebrews 4:12-13

Reading in preparation for this coming Sunday: Hebrews 4:14-5:10

**Family Worship**

Song - *Jesus is Better*

<https://youtu.be/vTewClvR7Og?si=cMrHhfufS0PN4ISz>

Gospel Project

Unit: God Is In Control

Story: Jacob fled from Canaan

Big Picture Question: Who is in control of everything?

Answer: God is in control of everything in heaven and on earth. Nothing is outside of God's good plan.

Scripture: Genesis 28, 32

New City Catechism

Question 46: What is the Lord's Supper?

Answer: Christ commanded all Christians to eat bread and to drink from the cup in thankful remembrance of him.

Verse: 1 Corinthians 11:23-26

Scripture

Hebrews 4:12-13

- What is the Scripture communicating when it tells us that the Bible is a sword? What other metaphors for Scripture can you think of that are in the Bible?
- How does God's word penetrate to the deepest parts of our humanity? Why is this a good thing for us?
- Can you remember the four key beliefs we hold about the Bible? What does each of these tell us about the nature and importance of God's Word?
- What is every passage and verse ultimately pointing us to? How does remembering this help us interpret the Bible?

Prayer

\*Give thanks this week for who God is and His work of redemption in your life.

\*Pray that the sword of God's Word would penetrate our hearts leading to belief in the Gospel and obedience.