

January 3, 2010

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Monday

Heb. 4:12 For the word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart.

A sharp knife slips easily through the meat, but to cut at the joint requires the sharpest and toughest blade. So is the word of God! Yet we expect the word to act as a surgeon's scalpel under anesthesia. We do not mind the cut, but we will tolerate no pain. It cannot be so. God's patient needs to be fully alert when the scalpel does its duty. You should expect the pain of conviction, adjustment, and correction. Be not angry with the surgeon or the scalpel. Welcome the cut that foreshadows healing.

Tuesday

1Pet. 1:24-25 For, All flesh is like grass, and all its glory like the flower of the grass. The grass withers, and the flower falls off, but the word of the Lord endures forever.

The word of the Lord is the *only sure standard*. There is no other. Logic will fail you. Knowledge will desert you. The opinions of well meaning others will leave you lost, as the blind lead the blind. But the word of God is like a pilot's trusted instruments, it sees through the fog and leads correctly even when your equilibrium is lost. Believers must trust the word of God. They must determine to follow the sure instrument of God wherever it leads and in spite of their own reservations. Their chief question must be "what does the word of God say?" Nothing else matters.

Wednesday

1Pet. 2:8 ...for they stumble because they are disobedient to the word, and to this doom they were also appointed.

What will be the difference between victory and defeat, between success and failure? It will be your commitment to obedience to God's word. In the first week of this new year, make a renewed commitment to be faithful to God's word. To do so will mean spending time in its pages, listening to its teaching, applying it to every aspect of your life. This year you and I have a choice. We may neglect the word of God to our own peril and that of our family and church or we may plumb its depths for wisdom and direction. We may follow it to victory or stumble in disobedience to defeat. What will be your commitment before the Lord this day?

Thursday

2Cor. 10:5 We are destroying speculations and every lofty thing raised up against the knowledge of God, and we are taking every thought captive to the obedience of Christ...

The mind is often captive to the world's propaganda, the politics of the moment, to self-centered thinking, to human reason and logic. Even the Christian's thinking may be captive to hearsay, sin, false teaching, and empty tradition. How does the believer distinguish between correct and incorrect thinking? By destroying the speculations that rise up against the word of God in his/her life. By taking captive the carnal thoughts of the flesh (even religious thoughts may be carnal), and making his/her thoughts align with the Word of God. Have you lately checked your assumptions, comparing and contrasting them with the word of God?

Friday

James 1:22 But prove yourselves doers of the word, and not merely hearers who delude themselves.

Oh, that God could write over the door of our church and our hearts: DOERS OF THE WORD! Oh, that we would measure all that we think and every priority of our lives by the motto: DOERS OF THE WORD. Our professed allegiance means nothing if we are not 'doers'. We succeed only when we are 'doers'. Of course, we cannot be 'doers' if we are not committed to being students of the word. But the final test is not knowing, but 'doing'. Your choice: doer or deluded?