

Valley Bible Church
Sermon Notes for September 7, 2014

Christ is Superior to Moses
Hebrews 4:12-13

The author of Hebrews saw Christ as superior to the prophets (Hebrews 1:1-4). The author of Hebrews saw Christ as superior to the angels (Hebrews 1:5-2:18). The author of Hebrews saw Christ as superior to Moses (Hebrews 3:1-4:13). Christ, as an example of faithfulness, is superior to Moses (Hebrews 3:1-6). Christ's superior example of faithfulness led the author to warn his readers against the sin of unbelief (Hebrews 3:7-4:13).

The first part of the author's warning against the sin of unbelief focused on Israel's past failure in the wilderness and subsequent judgment after they left Egypt (Hebrews 3:7-19).

The second part of the author's warning against the sin of unbelief focused on the promise of rest "today" (Hebrews 4:1-13).

The author in Hebrews 4:1-2 provided a transitional statement linking what he had said about Israel's past failure to enter the rest that God had promised them and the ongoing promise of rest today.

The author in Hebrews 4:3-5 expanded on the nature of the rest that is available "today" through faith in the gospel of Christ.

The author in Hebrews 4:6-11 presented further argument in support of his belief that God's rest was still available through faith in Christ.

The author in Hebrews 4:12-13 concluded the second part of the warning section against the sin of unbelief by emphasizing the power of the word of God.

The author of Hebrews believed that the word of God was powerful because the word of God exposes the deepest recesses of the heart (Hebrews 4:12).

The word "alive" (ZON) was used by this author to communicate to his readers that God's word is not "dead," or in other words irrelevant; it still exists as a dynamic force with which one must reckon.

The word "active" (ENERGES) speaks of the effectiveness of God's word to accomplish its intended purpose (Isaiah 55:11).

When the author referred to the word of God as piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit and of joints and marrow he was speaking about its ability to penetrate into both the immaterial and material parts of man.

Because the word of God pierces both the immaterial and the material parts of man, it is able to expose the “thoughts and intentions of the heart,” or in other words the subconscious motives of the heart.

The author of Hebrews, based on Hebrews 4:13, believed that the word of God was powerful not because it exposes the deepest recesses of the heart to us, but rather it exposes the deepest recesses to God.

The result of having the deepest recesses of our hearts exposed to God leaves us totally uncovered and helpless before Him, the very One we cannot ignore, for He will deal with us according to what He sees.

When the deep recesses of our hearts are being exposed by the piercing power of God’s words, may God see our hearts as believing rather than unbelieving, so that we might continue to enjoy the blessings of His rest rather than His judgment.