

58-04-03.wpd-- The All-Revealing Word  
Bible, Trinity, the Word, motives, cleansing  
Heb 4:12-13

When we look into God's Word, God's Word looks into us.

### INTRODUCTION:

--One reason for going to church is to get exposed to God's Word, BUT when we do, God's Word exposes us! The purpose of God's Word is *revelation*. But it doesn't just reveal things *to us*, it reveals truth *about us*. **HOM.idea. Text:** Heb 4:12-13 (NRSV), *Indeed, the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing until it divides soul from spirit, joints from marrow; it is able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart. And before him no creature is hidden, but all are naked and laid bare to the eyes of the one to whom we must render an account.*

--This passage is about "The All-Revealing Word" (title). If it seems to mix God's Word and God Himself together, that's because...

### **I. God's All-Revealing Word Is Related to God's Nature**

- A. The Trinity is a society of 3 Persons so closely related in Being that they are One God, Yahweh, the I AM of eternity (also called, "Love," because their Triune relationship sets the standard for it.)
1. An essential part of Trinitarian love is *openness*, and they are so open, so exposed to each Other, that together they're also called, "Light"-- 1 John 1:5b, God is light; in him there is no darkness at all.
  2. When the Triune God made us in His image, He made us naked, fully exposed socially as the Society of the Trinity were to each Other. (It's clear that God wanted humanity to physically reflect His social image, because He told Adam and Eve, while still in their naked state, to multiply and populate the whole world.)
  3. When our first parents sinned, they started hiding themselves:
    - a. first, from each other, with fig leaves -- a *social hiding* that damaged their reflection of the *social image* of the Trinity.
    - b. then, from God behind bushes AND excuses-- a spiritual hiding that damaged their reflection God's spiritual image.)
- B. When God's Son came into this world to repair the damage, how was He identified?-- (NKJV) John 1:1, In the beginning was the **Word**, and the **Word** was with God, and the **Word** was God... John 1:4, In Him was **life**, and the **life** was the **light** of men.... John 1:9, That was the true **Light**

which gives **light** to every man coming into the world. (Christ "the **Word**" reveals God to us; Christ "the true **Light**" He reveal us before God.)

**TRANS:** Jesus is "the Word." He is "the life" that "gives light" to the human race, whether people recognize Him or not. The *Word of God*, Christ, is the power behind the *Word of God*, the Bible. When we expose ourselves to God's Word, we are exposing ourselves to God Himself. **When we look into God's Word, God's Word looks into us.**

### **II. God's All-Revealing Word Has Penetrating Power**

- A. God's Word is described in v.12 as *sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing until it divides soul from spirit, joints from marrow* [written to Jews who understood the nature of the animal sacrifices as they were cut into pieces by a sharp knife and laid on the altar.] -- The Word goes beyond surface appearances, right **down** to the *soul and spirit*, **down** to the *joints* that hold us together, **down** to the very *marrow* of our being.
- B. In Rev 1:16 we see an awesome portrayal of the resurrected and exalted Christ: (NRSV) "from his mouth came a sharp, two-edged sword, and his face was like the sun shining with full force."
1. The sharp **Word from His mouth** can cut through any bush or excuse we try to hide behind to cover up our behavior.
  2. The penetrating **light from His countenance** brings our insides into full view, even *the thoughts and intentions of the heart*. [The laser beam has revolutionized our practice of surgery. What is "*sharper than any two-edged*" scalpel? LIGHT, the focused light of the laser.]
- C. Humans judge actions, but only God can look into the heart and judge thoughts and motives--Jesus said in Mark 4:22 (NKJV) "For there is nothing hidden which will not be revealed, nor has anything been kept secret but that it should come to light."

**TRANS:** Ever since the Fall, *sin* and *hiding* seem to go hand in hand. But *hiding* can destroy us! Coming before the gaze of a heart-searching God can save us. We need God's laser surgery now, today! The Word that can reveal our hearts is the Word that can heal our hearts.

### **III. God's All-Revealing Word Helps Us Prepare to Meet Him**

- A. Adam and Eve actually tried to hide from God-- v.13 was as much reality then as it is now: *And before him no creature is hidden, but all are*

*naked and laid bare to the eyes of the one to whom we must render an account.*

1. God's Word today is like a spotlight at night shining on what will be seen in broad daylight in the future. [S.S. Singh had visions of the afterlife, where Heaven's light exposes the soul's inner thoughts and motives, so that people wear their inner lives and attitudes like clothing. If that's so, we can see how important it is that we are dressed in Christ's righteousness.]
  2. God's Word helps us by scrutinizing us --Kierkegaard wrote, "Christian truth itself has eyes to see with. In fact it is all eye. That's very disquieting. Think of looking at a painting and discovering that the painting was looking at you. Precisely such is the case with Christian truth. It is looking back at me to see whether I do what it says I should do."
- B. God's Word exposes our pretenses, stripping us down to our bare souls, making us face a choice either to *change our behavior* or to *cover up again to hide under our old fig-leaf excuses*-- James 1:23-25, Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like a man who looks at his face in a mirror and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like. But the man who looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom, and continues to do this, not forgetting what he has heard, but doing it--he will be blessed in what he does.
1. [We need to look into a well-lighted mirror in order to see what needs to be *cleaned*, what needs *shaving*, where we need to *lose weight*.] We can avoid God's light or we can stand in it-- John 3:20-21, Everyone who does evil hates the light, and will not come into the light for fear that his deeds will be exposed. But whoever lives by the truth comes into the light, so that it may be seen plainly that what he has done has been done through God."
  2. [When I worked in a trauma center, if critical patients came in dressed, we used our scissors to cut off everything till they were naked, so we could treat them] God's Word cuts through everything we dress up with to get down to *the real US*, so God help us "get well" spiritually.

### CONCLUSION:

--All of us are *naked and laid bare to the eyes of the one to whom we must render an account*. "*How can I escape this nakedness before God?!*" It's easy! Don't open the Bible, or if it's open, don't read it, or if you read it, don't take it seriously! But such an escape from nakedness before God is only temporary, because Jesus said in John 12:48, There is a judge for the one who rejects me and does not accept my words; that very word which I spoke will condemn him at the last day. Let none of us wait till then. Look into God's Word today, and God's Word will look into you.