

Hurst Green Evangelical Church

15th Oct 2018

Eph 6:17

The sword of the spirit

Ephesians 6:17 (ANIV)

¹⁷ ~~Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.~~

The short sword is often seen as a defensive weapon and is one of the few weapons that we see in the armour.

You now know all about the shield of faith and so can extinguish all the darts of the evil one – I hope having been taught that you are now doing that.

Doing that now and every day – it's your defence I worry about every day

So we know have the sword and psalms gives us so much hope in this area

Psalm 119:9-11 (ANIV)

⁹ How can a young man keep his way pure? **By living according to your word.** ¹⁰ I seek you with all my heart; do not let me stray from your commands. ¹¹ I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you.

Whether a young man or an old one the way is still true – we keep ourselves pure by living according to the word of God – According to the sword of the spirit.

As David goes on

Psalm 119:133 (ANIV)

¹³³ Direct my footsteps according to your word; let no sin rule over me.

There is that direct link between living our lives according to God's word and letting sin into our lives.

Psalm 119:105 (ANIV)

¹⁰⁵ Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path.

This is the focus we need on the word of God – we all too easily wander away and lose the lamp and so wander into sin

Psalm 119:103 (ANIV)

¹⁰³ How sweet are your words to my taste, sweeter than honey to my mouth!

Can we say that about our knowledge of the word of God – his words are sweet – all too often we treat his words with contempt. His words conflict with what we want to do and so we go off on our own way – doing our own thing – heading into sin!?!

We need to keep his words sweet to our taste

It is easy for them to be bitter – we love to sin – it is so much more fun. But God's words should be sweet to us.

We need to say with David

Psalm 119:112 (ANIV)

¹¹² My heart is set on keeping your decrees to the very end.

When we think of the defence of Christ against temptation we know the answer don't we.

It is written!

Christ goes back to scripture.

But now the word of God is more than that - we must never neglect scripture as too many are wont to do.

Scripture is a first, and last and every line of defence in between and we should know and claim the promises that God has given us.

Do you know them? Do you know any of them? Do you know a few of them?

You probably do not know enough of them – **earn them** – **claim them** – they are your inheritance

Most of them are really simple – you are holy; you are righteous; and similar – they are simple but impact on your life if only you will let them.

But all too often we don't let them.

Please let them – they are so important and yet so simple

Now we can go on the offensive – we no longer just stand but we can take the offensive against our enemy.

We have the word of God but!

We need to be on the watch

2 Corinthians 11:13-14 (ANIV)

¹³ *For such men are false apostles, deceitful workmen, masquerading as apostles of Christ.* ¹⁴ *And no wonder, for Satan himself masquerades as an angel of light.*

Satan is as capable of quoting the word of God as we are. But he quotes it out of context.

We need to know it in context and be able to use it to refute false teaching – we need to know the word of God.

Know the word of God is straight forward.

Firstly it is the bible.

God is incapable of contradicting himself – he is right in all his ways.

Nothing God ever says can contradict what he has always said; what he has ever said

You don't believe him – that is one thing – but that is your problem

He is consistent – he has said it and it will come to pass

You are holy because he is holy!

You don't believe him – your problem

He will never say that you are not holy because that simply cannot be true.

You are righteous

He has chosen to make you righteous

You don't believe him – that is your problem.

If you believe in him you are righteous because he has said that you are - fact

His word is always true.

But his word consists of more than just the bible

It consists of his word to you today.

His words of revelation and of knowledge.

They cannot contradict his word of the bible but they add to it for today – that can be even scarier.

But God speaks to you today – we can shut up our cloth ears and pretend it does not happen but it does and we limit our effectiveness as the body of Christ when we put on our ear muffs.

God speaks words of knowledge and wisdom to each one of us

Too many ignore them – too many of us ignore them but still those words are spoken. They need our action.

But do we stand silent – do we look elsewhere rather than listening to our God.

God speaks – let us hear.

Open your cloth ears – God speaks to you today – that is part of his sword of the spirit.

What have you missed because you will not listen?

What have you deprived others of because you will not listen?

Let us listen and let us be his servants.

The word is not something to be carried in a box but something to be used – use it to your advantage.

Bless yourselves and bless others by opening your ears to God and hearing his word.

Know his word from the bible and hear his word for today – it is amazing the blessing you will pour out on yourself and those around you if only you will take these simple steps.

