

“The Sword”

Preached by Bro. Mahlon T. LeCroix on 3/9/2025.

Sermon Series: Hebrews; Jesus is Greater! Main Passage: Hebrews 4:11-13

Opened with a discussion about **Melvin** Ernest Trotter who was born on May 16, 1870.

- Trotter struggled greatly with gambling and **alcoholism** to the point where he stole the **clothes** off his dead daughter while she was in her coffin.
- He would eventually give his life to Jesus at a rescue mission in **Chicago**, and eventually went on to start and run the largest **mission** in America, at that time, in Grand Rapids, MI.
- He eventually became an evangelist during **WW1** leading thousands to faith and also served beside the great evangelist Billy **Sunday**.
- What can so radically change a man like Trotter? How can such a despicable man become so beloved? I believe the answer is right here in this passage... the **word** of God!

1) The **Word**

- God has spoken in two distinct ways...
 - a) **General** revelation; example: Creation. (ref: Ps.19:1; Rom.1:20)
 - b) **Special** revelation; example: Bible. (ref: Rom.10:17; John 5:24)
- The **word** is a double-edge sword that is used for judgement and for conforming us into the image of Christ. (ref: John 12:48; Rom.12:1-2)
- The **Holy Spirit** speaks to us and works on us through His word. (ref: Rom.12:1-2, John 14:26, 1Cor.2:10-11, 1Pet.1:23)
- The Author describes the word in 3 ways... (ref: v.12)
 - a) **Living** : 66 books, 40 different authors, over 1500 years, 3 different languages, and on 3 different continents with one consistent theme and no contradictions.
 - b) **Active** (ref: Isa. 55:10-11)
 - c) **Sharp**

2) The **Judge**

- Our heart and sin is both **deceitful**, so how can we know the truth about whether we believe or not? His word can and will reveal the **truth!** (ref: Jam.1:22-24, Jer.23:29)
- On judgement day we will all stand fully **exposed**. Nothing will be hidden. (ref: Heb. 9:27)

3) The **Effort**

- The Wilderness Generation heard the word, saw miracles, and didn't **believe**. (ref: Heb. 4:2)
- Do you really believe God will do what he has said? _____ Does your actions show that? _____ (ref: Matt.6:33)

In closing,

- Allow His word to do what it does... reveal your true self.
- What areas does the Master Surgeon need to cut out of your life? _____
- How can you get in the Word and stay in the Word? _____
- Do you willingly obey His word (believe), or do you willingly disobey His word (unbelief)? _____

Disclaimer: I make no claims to absolute originality for any of my messages. As the common saying goes, “I milk a lot of cows, but I churn my own butter.” I have listened to countless sermons, lectures, jokes, illustrations/stories over my lifetime. I have read countless books, articles, manuscripts, and watched countless documentaries, shows, movies, etc. I'm not sure any thought I have today is truly my own originality and not directly influenced from something I have read, seen, or heard. I'll strive to make specific reference when I know and/or realize I'm quoting verbatim someone/thing directly.