

The Dividing Sword

by Eli Brayley

Eli Brayley's sermon emphasizes the dividing nature of God's Word as a powerful tool for revealing truth and calling the Church to action.

Scripture: 1 Kings 3:16, Matthew 10:34, John 17:17, 1 Corinthians 11:18, Hebrews 4:12

Topics: "Divine Judgment", "Gods Word"

Description

Eli Brayley preaches on the powerful and divisive nature of the Word of God, likening it to a sharp sword that penetrates deep into the soul, spirit, joints, and marrow, revealing the true intentions and thoughts of the heart. He emphasizes that the Word of God is not meant for peace but for division, separating truth from falsehood and exposing genuine faith. Through examples like King Solomon's wisdom and Jesus' purpose to bring a sword, Brayley urges believers to embrace the Word's discerning power and prepare for the ultimate judgment when Jesus returns with a two-edged sword.

Transcript

"For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart." - Hebrews 4:12

Is there anyone reading this that still believes the Word of God is this description? Say Amen. God's Word is not a book. It's a sword. I'll say that again: God's Word is not a book, it's a sword.

Look now to the words of Jesus: "Think not that I am come to send peace on earth: I came not to send peace, but a sword." (Matthew 10:34) Think not that I come to send peace! Could you imagine preaching this from the pulpit today, in our tolerant and peace-seeking society? How many sermons have you heard that tells you otherwise? What does Jesus mean by this?

I know this from living 20 years on this earth: God's Word divides. And rightfully so, for this is its very purpose. No one uses a sword to patch a body back together, rather, a sword swung delivers severe results. A two-edged sword will double your effect. God's Word cuts through soul and spirit, joint and marrow, leaving everything bare.

I submit that if there were no Bible there would be no denominations. In fact, if it is unity you seek, and at any cost, I would suggest discarding the Bible, for it will only serve to divide and hinder your best

endeavors. Should denominations concern us? No. Paul says to the Corinthians: "For, in the first place, when you come together as a church, I hear that there are divisions among you. And I believe it in part, for there must be factions among you in order that those who are genuine among you may be recognized." (1 Corinthians 11:18-19) This is very important. Read it again:

"For, in the first place, when you come together as a church, I hear that there are divisions among you. And I believe it in part, for there must be factions among you in order that those who are genuine among you may be recognized."

Apply this story of Solomon: Two women come before King Solomon claiming the same right to own a little male child. Both accuse the other of fraudulence. Solomon orders the child to be cut asunder and one half given to each woman. By this the true mother is revealed, exposing the indifferent woman to be a deceiver. (1 Kings 3:16-28)

I find this fascinating in view of what Paul has just stated to those in Corinth and in light of Hebrews 4:12 above. We have two passages of Scripture, both stating that the dividing sword of God's Word reveals the intentions of the heart: exposing falsehood and verifying genuinity. A powerful weapon indeed! This is the wisdom of God, as we find in verse 28: "And all Israel heard of the judgment that the king had rendered, and they stood in awe of the king, because they perceived that the wisdom of God was in him to do justice."

Jesus came to bring a sword. Even as a baby it was spoken over Him that Jesus would yield this dividing sword: "And Simeon blessed them, and said unto Mary his mother, Behold, this child is set for the fall and rising again of many in Israel; and for a sign which shall be spoken against; (Yea, a sword shall pierce through thy own soul also,) that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed." Even Mary would not escape this sword that reveals the thoughts of the heart. Do you think you shall escape it?

When the Lord returns He will come with the two-edged sword in His mouth and divide the sheep from the goats. By the Word will the fate of all mankind be decided. It is time for the people of the truth to wield the sword and begin judgment before judgment comes upon us, "For the time is come that judgment must begin at the house of God." It is time to brandish the sword of the Spirit against all things, dividing what is clean and what is unclean, what is true and what is false, what is of Christ and what is of the devil. We must no longer use denominations as an excuse for the poor condition of the Church. The poor condition of the Church is because of the backslidden conditions of our hearts towards Jesus and His Word. It's time for the Church to wake up and be "sanctified (separated) by the truth. Thy Word is truth." (John 17:17)

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