

Be Honest with God

Hebrews 4:12,13

Introduction:

- A. Honesty is a virtue
 - 1. Much of our society lacks honesty
 - a. Students c_____ on tests
 - b. Teachers f_____ their reports
 - c. Employess call in s_____ when they are not
 - d. Family members l_____ to one another
 - 2. Many Christians struggle with honesty
 - a. Col 3:9 and Eph 4:25 command believers to s_____ lying to one another (this indicates that it was a problem in the church).
 - b. Sometimes we can lie to o_____ and believe it.
- B. God can never be fooled
 - 1. First, l_____ to be honest with God.
 - 2. Then, you will be honest with yourself.
 - 3. Eventually, you will e_____ the trust of others.
- C. Today's lesson in Hebrews 4:12,13 gives us two truths to help us instill the virtue of honesty into our lives.

God knows your heart (13)

- A. No c_____ is hidden from God's sight (13a)
 - 1. After Adam and Eve sinned, they tried to h_____ from God (Gen 3:8).
 - 2. After Jonah disobeyed God's command to preach to the Ninevites, he tried to r_____ away from God (Jon 1:3).
- B. All t_____ are open and laid bare before God's eyes (13b)
 - 1. This is a characteristic that is u_____ to God (Ps 7:9; Jer 17:10; Rom 8:27; Rev 2:23)
 - 2. God u_____ you and n_____ you and so you might as well be honest with Him.
- C. What steps do we need to take to be honest with God?

God's Word purifies your heart (12)

- A. The word of God
 - 1. Defined in the context as the message of God s_____ to the people of God.
 - a. Immediate context (4:2,3) – the gospel message and the promises of God s_____ to the people.

- b. Larger context (13:7) – the message of God spoken by God’s leaders.
- 2. Is more than a b_____ - Bibles often become inactive (how many Bibles in your home?)
- 3. Is l_____ and active
 - a. When r_____ by you.
 - b. When p_____ to you by others.
- B. Purposes of God’s word - compared to a double-edged s_____
 - 1. God’s word pierces what no sword can reach – the s_____ and the s_____ (12a)
 - a. The soul – refers to the seat of the m_____, will, and emotions (the psychological aspect of our being)
 - b. The spirit – refers to the s_____ aspect of our being that was created to be c_____ with God.
 - 1) Before faith in Christ, the spirit is d_____ (Eph 2:1)
 - 2) Upon trusting Christ, the spirit is made a_____ (Eph 2:5).
 - 2. God’s word is designed to be the judge of the thoughts and i_____ of our hearts (12b)
 - a. The judge of our eternal destiny
 - 1) Let God’s word judge whether or not you are truly saved from you sins
 - 2) Present the gospel to others so it can pierce people’s hearts (Rom 10:17; 1:16).
 - b. The judge of our daily living – whenever God’s word comes before you ask:
 - 1) Lord, what do I need to learn?
 - 2) Lord, what do I need to change?

Search me, O God, and know my heart; Try me and know my anxious thoughts; And see if there be any hurtful way in me, And lead me in the everlasting way. (Ps 139:23-24).

Conclusion -be honest with God and He will purify your heart and build your life.