

2015 IABC National Conference

Workshop Title: "Going Under The Knife"

Presenter: Alden Laird

Date: August 8, 2015

Text: Hebrews 4:12-16

Introduction:

Overview: Having introduced the subject of "rest" in chapter 3:7-19, the writer to the Hebrews continues with this theme in chapter 4. Verses 1-11 detail the elements involved in entering "His rest" and the warnings to those who fail to do so. Verses 12 and 13 complete the subject of rest with the familiar word picture of the Word of God as "sharper than any two-edged sword..." Verses 14-16 conclude this section with the "confidence" the genuine believer can have because of Jesus, our great High Priest.

In spiritual terms, "going under the knife" means:

1. We have been warned to not miss His rest. - v. 1
2. We have understood the requirements for eternal rest. - vv. 2, 3
3. We have believed that God's rest is the purpose of the Bible from start to finish. - vv. 4, 5
4. We have placed our hope in God's rest and rested from our own works. - vv. 6-10
5. We have heeded the appeal to strive for God's ultimate eternal rest. - v. 11
6. We have _____ ourselves to God's perfect _____ - the Bible. - v. 12
7. We have _____ that all things are _____ before God. - v. 13
8. We have _____ the perfect _____ for our souls. - v. 14
9. We have _____ to the _____ Biblical Counselor. - v. 15
10. We have _____ in approaching the _____ of grace. - v. 16

Application:

1. How does the Word of God evaluate us? Give personal examples.
2. Explain why the Word of God is comforting to those who believe, but a tool of judgment to unbelievers.
3. How can the truths of v. 15 assist you this week in not succumbing to temptation(s)? Be specific.
4. Relate an example of how God helped you "find grace in time of need."
5. Give an example of a time in your life where you resisted "going under the knife" of God's Word. What was the outcome? Provide a positive example and explain the difference that submission to God's Word made.

"The Word of God is sharper than any sword which men can manufacture. The sword of man can only harm the body, whereas the sword of God can destroy both the body and the soul. It is incisive, distinguishing between the saved and the unsaved, the genuine and the false...The Word, of course, is the basis of both divine salvation and judgment (2 Cor. 2:15, 16)...In the context of this warning, it becomes the means of divine chastisement for the erring believer and the standard of judgment for the unsaved." - - Robert G. Gromacki