

October 11, 2015 – Sermon Notes, Pastor Alan Smith

“The Sword”

- History of the sword. Around the 3rd millennium BC the bronze sword was used and then with the discovery of harder metals a new sword was developed.
- You had the bronze sword, iron sword, steel sword. Some swords were made with a single sharp edge and others had two edges. Some were military and then they developed the epee for personal use in duels.
- The sword has gotten more polished but hasn't changed much except for the light saber found in Star Wars.
- Yes, swords are good for going into an ancient battle and even if you get into a fight with Dart Vader, but the sword can't show us who we are.
- In our scripture God's word is compared to a sword.
- Hebrews 4:12 (NLT)
- **12 For the word of God is alive and powerful. It is sharper than the sharpest two-edged sword, cutting between soul and spirit, between joint and marrow. It exposes our innermost thoughts and desires.**
- God's word is first alive.
- The Greek word is a verb with a present tense. So God's word is always alive.
- God's word is always relevant.
- God's word is also powerful. The meaning of powerful is pertaining to being effective in causing something to happen.
- What are the things that God's word is effectively causing to happen?
- It is effective in exposing our innermost thoughts and desires.
- The word of God shows us the parts of our heart that we hide from the world.
- His word even shows things in us that is hidden from ourselves.
- God's word is that guide for our lives.
- **Psalm 119:105 (NLT)**
- **105 Your word is a lamp to guide my feet**
- **and a light for my path.**

- In today's world and all the confusion that is here we need something to guide us. This is a complex world and we need to turn to wisdom that is greater than ourselves.
- As the Psalmist wrote your word is the lamp to guide us and the light for our path.
- Have you ever felt lost not knowing which way to turn? Worldly wisdom just can't help you. You feel lost, alone and the world is dark.
- It is God's word that guides.
- What about when you are lost in darkness? It is God's word that teaches and trains us.
- **2 Timothy 3:16 (NLT)**
- **16 All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It corrects us when we are wrong and teaches us to do what is right.**
- The scripture is inspired God and it teaches us truth. God's truth not the worlds truth. The worlds truth is constantly changing. What is right, what is true. What is acceptable. Today political correctness is a big topic today. Washington Redskins name is a big controversy. Earlier this week I read an article about Clemson University is stopping its Maximum Mexican meal theme because someone complained that it's offensive.
- I could go on and on about the shifting morals in today. I just turn to TV and see the changes in my lifetime. When I was young you didn't hear a curse word or see anything that had sexual overtones in the shows. Now you can hardly find a show that doesn't have those things in it.
- The moral compass in this world shifts too much.
- Where do we turn? God's word is that light that guides us. God's word is there to teach us to do right and corrects us when we are doing wrong.
- It is God's word that goes right to the heart of the matter.
- It cuts through all the stuff. I think that is why we see this comparison to the sword.
- Have you ever tried to cut something with a dull knife?
- Doesn't work very well does it?

- The world's wisdom and ideals are like the dull knife.
- It only addresses the surface and treats only the symptoms.
- God's word cuts to the heart of the matter.
- It cuts between the heart and soul.
- How can His word affect us if we don't know it?
- If there is a crisis in our lives and we don't have that knowledge of His word, how can it guide us?
- When the world looks to us for answers in difficult situations. Where do we get the answer? Where does the wisdom come from? Our education? Our own experiences?
- To answer those deep issues that are in our society and in our own lives we need to turn to His word as the source of wisdom.
- I want to encourage all of us to study His word.
- Hide His word in our hearts.
- **Psalm 119:11 (NLT)**
- **11 I have hidden your word in my heart,**
- **that I might not sin against you.**
- With God's word in our heart it helps us not to sin against God.
- **James 1:22–25 (NLT)**
- **22 But don't just listen to God's word. You must do what it says. Otherwise, you are only fooling yourselves. 23 For if you listen to the word and don't obey, it is like glancing at your face in a mirror. 24 You see yourself, walk away, and forget what you look like. 25 But if you look carefully into the perfect law that sets you free, and if you do what it says and don't forget what you heard, then God will bless you for doing it.**
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